Daily Report

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FBIS-EEU-93-070 *14 April 1993*

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Slovak Minister Addresses Copenhagen Conference

LD1304202293 Prague CTK in English 1918 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Copenhagen April 13 (CTK correspondent)—The West European countries should provide the former socialist countries with more assistance to overcome their economic troubles, Slovak Foreign Minister Jozef Moravcik said at a conference on the economic development in Central and Eastern Europe in Copenhagen today.

The economic troubles result from the declining industrial output and a weak purchasing power of the population, said Moravcik.

In view of the growing unemployment and a considerable decline in the standard of living, it would be suitable to draft a programme of an effective assistance not only to the states of the former Soviet Union, but also to those countries of the Central European Initiative (CEI) for whose economies it might prove stabilising, Moravcik said.

The CEI consists of the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He also said that Slovakia could help the former Soviet Union with experts in such top necessity spheres, as the development of small and medium-sized companies, and privatisation.

Moravcik proposed to the European Community (EC) to consider the opportunities of financing the Slovak experts from a special fund of technical assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The talks of the CEI representatives, who met today at the Bella Center Congress Center, concerned the current development in the former Yugoslavia and chances of admitting new members to the CEI.

Hungarian Minister Addresses Conference

LD1304194193 Budapest MTI in English 1739 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Copenhagen, April 13 (MTI)—Hungary's consistent ambition to fully join the European Community still rests on the consensus of all parliamentary parties. But the euphoria which came with the system change has been replaced, in many ways, by disappointment, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said at the two-day Copenhagen conference on the East European economic reforms today.

The Hungarian minister was the first speaker on behalf of the Visegrad group (Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia).

Jeszenszky thanked the European Community for its considerable assistance but added that economic transformation taking place in Hungary involved huge sacrifices. For this reason, a growing number of people feel the West has forgotten them, he said.

The minister said that help to the Russian economy, albeit vital for the whole region, should not eclipse economic problems in the other Eastern and Central European countries.

In his address, Jeszenszky made special reference to the embargo the EC imposed on Hungarian meat. "In view of Hungary's veterinary health standards praised even by EC experts, this step was wholly unjustified and caused a loss of at least USD 50 million to Hungary. moreover, it has encouraged the revival of protectionism," Jeszenszky said.

Yugoslavia's war and sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro have hit Hungarian business as well, he said. if the West fails to settle the conflict and tackle the aftermath, it is unclear how Hungary will manage this year and later, Jeszenszky said.

The Hungarian foreign minister pressed for the EC's June summit to approve as a common goal promoting Central European efforts for full membership. Hungary would welcome other countries nearby joining the process of European integration, which he believed was the only way to guarantee regional stability and security.

Radio Ship Broadcasts News From Adriatic

AU1104142293 Paris AFP in English 0227 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] On Board the Freedom of Speech, April 10 (AFP)—A floating radio station has begun broadcasting "honest news" to the former Yugoslavia from the Adriatic Sea to counter propaganda produced by the warring parties.

"The media can start a war, but have never stopped it," said Serbian journalist Lazar Stojanovic on board the Freedom of Speech, or Droit de Parole, the name the vessel shares with its French organising group. "We can try to calm hatred where there is war. That's already a lot."

With a grant of one million ecus (1.2 million dollars) from the European Community, the seven journalists from Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia, to be joined shortly by two more, are equipped with a 50-kilowatt transmitter, one of the most powerful ever installed aboard a ship.

"Our editorial team is made up of reasonable and intelligent people. We are not influenced by anyone," editor-in-chief Dzevad Sablakovic said, adding: "The situation in ex-Yugoslavia is completely crazy. There is a lot of manipulation. We will do our best to re-establish ties between the people of the different communities."

After a careful inspection for suspect parcels on the 65-meter (200-foot) red-and-blue ship, a former oceanographic vessel chartered by Droit de Parole, it left the southern Italian port of Bari for international waters.

Zlatko Dizdarevic, editor-in-chief of the Bosnian daily OSLOBODJENJE, broadcast the first item, a message of support from Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel.

The 50-meter (165-foot) antenna is beaming the messages in the various Slavic languages of the former Yugoslavia.

A test confirmed that the signal is being picked up in the Yugoslav capital Belgrade, and it is expected to reach Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Dalmatia, in southern Croatia.

Already on board are one Slovenian, two Croatians, two Montenegrins, one Serbian and one Bosnian Moslem.

"Our action is in response to the recommendations of the Mazowiecki report," Droit de Parole official Marie Nguyen explained.

In a document addressed in August 1992 to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, former Polish prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki stressed the need to promote "actions aimed at freeing the flow of information and stopping the incitement of hatred by local media" in the former Yugoslavia.

The radio project has been harshly criticized by the Belgrade media, calling it an anti-Serb initiative. Croatian newspapers, largely government-controlled, for their part said the project has been manipulated by Serbia.

The E.C. grant is expected to cover expenses until the end of June. Droit de Parole is seeking additional funding, especially from American foundations.

The association, set up last July, had wanted to sail the ship under the French flag but was refused permission "for legal reasons," so it flies the flag of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the starred flag of the E.C.

The sea is calm, and the war seems faraway, but just to be safe the Freedom of Speech keeps a few nautical miles offshore.

Russian Mafia Head in Budapest Reveals Details

AU0904070493 Vienna WIRTSCHAFTSWOCHE in German 8 Apr 93 p 43

[Interview with Semion Yodkovits Moglevics, called "Szeva," the "godfather of the Russian mafia in Budapest," by the police chiefs of Prague and Bratislava and a high-ranking official of the Vienna Security Office, in the "Black & White" "topless" bar in Budapest "six days before Christmas"; the questions were asked in Russian, Szeva's answers were translated into German, Czech, and Slovak by an interpreter: "More and More Chechens in Vienna"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Question] Are there any activities by the Russian mafia in Bratislava, Prague, and Vienna?

[Szeva] Russian groups are already at work in Czechoslovakia, but there is no organization there. It is difficult to enter this country secretly. There are not yet any bars in Russian hands, but in Bratislava the group of Boris Pekov and the group of Ivo Karamanszky are working in prostitution. In Vienna there are many Russian emigrants. They are conducting legal business. They are already prosperous, established, and influential. These emigrants do not work in the night business, because bars are not interesting to them.

[Question] What does the name Macintosh mean to you?

[Szeva] Macintosh earns his money in the arms trade. He sells weapons to Yugoslavia. I do not know exactly where he gets the weapons, but reportedly he gets them from Austrian sources or through Austrian intermediaries. His wife and his daughter live in Vienna. He himself originally went to Vienna with a forged Yugoslav passport. Recently he has been afraid of the Chechens. There are more and more Chechens in Vienna.

[Question] What do you know of the business of Naumov?

[Szeva] Naumov does legal business with Russian foodstuffs and consumer goods, which he has organized from army stocks. He allegedly also deals with red mercury. Reportedly, he also blackmails Russian emigrants to manage their businesses in the way he wants them to manage them.

[Question] Are there any Russian drug dealers in Vienna?

[Szeva] There are already many Russians who work in the drug trade. One of them, Konievskiy, was recently arrested.

[Question] What other kinds of crime are committed by Russians?

[Szeva] The Chechens are smuggling cigarettes from the United States via Hungary to Austria on a large scale. Smuggling takes place by means of containers. With one container of Marlboros one can make a profit of $250,000. The 20-tonne containers can easily be smuggled across the borer. The cigarettes are then sold in Mexico Square [in Vienna] or in restaurants.

[Question] Are the Russians working in prostitution?

[Szeva] Only a few Russian girls are working in Austria at the moment. However, there is an organization in Bratislava that brings Czechoslovak girls to Vienna. In summary, one can assume that Czechoslovakia is only a stepping stone to Austria and Germany. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Protests Violation of Airspace

AU1304182293 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Protest by the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Albania issued in Tirana on 13 April]

[Text] At 1155 [0955 GMT] on 10 April a foreign plane entered the airspace of the Republic of Albania by flying along a course from Mali i Hekurave—latitude 42 degrees 28 minutes, longitude 19 degrees 55 minutes—to Fierze-Krume-Kukes, emerging at the Cerem Valley—latitude 42 degrees and 19 minutes, longitude 20 degrees and 13 minutes—and then turning in the direction of the former Yugoslavia.

Regarding this, the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry sent a note of protest to the competent bodies, the representatives of the former Yugoslavia, asking them to take immediate measures to prevent incidents and provocations of every kind, and to apply international sanctions so as to not infringe upon the integrity of state borders.

Berisha Offers 'Full Support' for NATO Action

AU1304195293 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] President of the Republic Sali Berisha considered as stalwart [stoik] NATO's action in support of the UN resolution banning the flight of military aircraft over Bosnia. This is another very important step in an effort to solve the conflict in former Yugoslavia. The action [words indistinct] of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization enjoys our full support, President Berisha stated.

Statistics Department Reports on Inflation

AU1204144393 Tirana ATA in English 1007 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 12 (ATA)—The Statistics Department reports in March 1993, the consumer's price index, as against the basic period, December 1990, amounted to 771.9 per cent, an increase of 0.9 per cent as against the previous month. As compared to March 1992, the consumer's prices have increased 170.8 per cent. This is the best result since December 1991 and shows of a stabilization of consumer's prices over the last months. This is mainly due to the plentiful supply of the market.

The prices of food have only increased 1.1 per cent as against the previous year. The veal has considerably increased amounting to 4.8 per cent and fresh milk 4.2 per cent etc. Whereas the prices of some kinds of food have suffered decrease such as rice 3.2 per cent, powdered milk 6 per cent, butter 3.8 per cent etc. The other groups have not suffered substantial increase in prices, on the contrary the prices of some household articles have decreased 0.9 per cent, such as soap, whose price has decreased 8.1 per cent, that of refrigerators about 2 per cent and of washing machines 2.7 per cent.

The group of clothes has suffered a little increase in prices, 0.8 per cent, whereas the group personal care an increase of 3.7 per cent.

Berisha Receives Macedonian Delegation

AU1204143593 Tirana ATA in English 0813 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 12 (ATA)—The president of the Republic, Sali Berisha met with the delegation of the People's Democratic Party of Macedonia, headed by its chairman, Mr. Iliaz Halimi. During the meeting they discussed the new situation created in the region with the recognition of the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia by the United Nations and the ways of solving the human and national rights of the Albanians in Macedonia.

President Berisha pointed to the importance of searching for the democratic ways to solve the complex problems inherited from the past in the Balkans. Albania, he said, will recognise the former-Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia, because this serves the stability in the region, the increase of cooperation and understanding between the Albanians and Macedonians in this republic, the interest of all the Albanians in Macedonia, Kosova and Albania. Besides this, the president said, we will powerfully support the realization of all human and national rights of the Albanians in Macedonia, in conformity with the European international norms and the CSCE standards.

The PDP representatives of Macedonia valued Albania's contribution to defend these rights and expressed their party's commitment to continue their efforts, as regards legal institutions of the new state, to ensure that the Albanians enjoy the same rights with all the other citizens of the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia. In the meeting they expressed the conviction that this would be an important factor of stabilization and in favour of the progress of the new republic.

Kalakula, Italian Ambassador Discuss Agriculture

AU1304142593 Tirana ATA in English 1006 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 10 (ATA)—The Albanian Minister of Agriculture and Food Petrit Kalakula met with the Italian ambassador to Tirana, Paolo Foresti. They exchanged opinions on the development of Albanian agriculture, in which Italy continues to render its assistance, thus ranking among the first countries that are helping Albania in this direction. They also talked on the transition from the stage of food aid on to another stage, that of revival of the sector of agriculture.

Mr. Foresti said to Minister Kalakula that the delegation of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Italy is in Albania these days and has had a number of meetings with Albanian authorities. It has finished the modalities for the program for a three-year cooperation, signed in Rome last

November. The highest quota of this program is precisely that of the project in the sector of agriculture, worth nearly 70 billion liras.

Objectives of this program, along the rapid increase of agricultural products, are also the promotion of private initiative, development of professional capabilities of the working people, etc.

Ambassador Foresti assured that Italy will make everything possible to help Albania overcome the difficulties in order that the increase of the price for the basic articles, such as flour and bread, be not felt by the poorest population, be it urban or rural.

Privatization of Houses To Start This Week

AU1304181993 Tirana ATA in English 0807 GMT 13 Apr 93

[ATA report: "When Will the Privatization of State Houses Begin in Tirana?"]

[Text] Tirana, April 13 (ATA)—Regarding this problem, the vice-mayor Gezim Kallciu told ATA:

Privatization of state houses in Tirana will begin this week in all the 11 administrative units. To this end all files have been prepared with the documentation necessary for privatization and the state houses have been classified according to the zones.

In the same way, the former private houses will not be privatized and the state houses which will not be privatized are being defined. The privatization of houses will partly begin with those houses whose process is simpler and presents no problems related to data which, according to the law, should be provided by the respective institutions such as the sector for cadaster, the court on housing questions, etc.

Seminar Discusses Human Rights Issues

AU1304142493 Tirana ATA in English 0804 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 13 (ATA)—The seminar "Human Rights and Justice" and the meeting on the European Convention on the Human Rights organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the UN Human Rights Center and the Council of Europe was held in the Palace of Congresses in Tirana on April 12. In this activity which will last on April 16, lawyers, jurists, and distinguished experts from various countries will analyse, explain, and discuss with Albanian jurists questions of special theoretical and practical interest, which have to do with respective sources of the international institutional law, with the standards for the human rights, independence of lawyers and advocates and elements for an unbiased judgment, with the human rights during penal investigation, the arrest before trial, with the international standards for the treatment of the detained, etc.

Those present were greeted by the UNDP [United Nations Development Program] representative in Tirana, Mr. Marshall, who valued the commitment of the Albanian Government to democracy and the human rights.

The Minister of Justice Kudret Cela said that the recent approval by the parliament of the constituent Law on the Human Fundamental Rights and Freedoms is one of the most important steps in the transforming processes in Albania.

Then, experts of the UN Human Rights Center, Mr. Mockhiber and Ms. Marotta read papers on the human rights and justice, international sources, systems and standards. On these matters there were many questions and discussions.

Korce Council Chairman, Florina Mayor Meet

AU1404061893 Tirana ATA in English 1020 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 13 (ATA)—Invited by the chairman of the Council of Korce District, the prefect of Florina, Nikolaos Kukulas, paid a visit to Korca. He and the persons escorting him paid a visit to the Museum of Albanian Medieval Art and in the cathedral "The Life-Giving Source" where they were acquainted with the Albanian ancient iconography.

During the talks, they exchanged opinions on the possible cooperation, investments, and other fields of mutual interest, especially for private individual communities in agriculture and livestock, which are created in the District of Korce and which are of interest to cooperate with.

In the course of his visits, the prefect of Florina went to the museum house of the painter of the people, Vangjush Mio, and visited other museal institutions of this district.

Authorities Stop Romanian Oil Tanker Convoy

AU1204201693 Sofia BTA in English 1850 GMT 12 Apr 93

["Today"—BTA lead]

[Excerpts] Sofia, April 12 (BTA)—Officials of the State Shipping Inspectorate and of the customs in Vidin (northwestern Bulgaria) send back this morning a Romanian convoy of five tankers carrying 6,000 tonnes of oil, the BTA correspondent in this Danubian city reported. The convoy came from the Romanian port of Tulcea and its documents pointed to Vidin as its destination though there are no facilities for loading and unloading oil products in this Bulgarian city.

Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov and National Bank governor Todor Vulchev left for the Netherlands today for a meeting with the governors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

A successful operation of the police in the city of Veliko Turnovo (northern Bulgaria) resulted in the arrest of three Russian racketeers and two of their Bulgarian confederates. On April 8 two unidentified armed persons used threats and violence to extort gold, goods and U.S. dollars from Armenian tourists staying at the Etur Hotel in Veliko Turnovo. The extorters were arrested on Saturday and will be tried under the Bulgarian Laws. They have also been charged with other robberies. According to the police, there is already "fraternal friendship" between Bulgarian and Russian racketeers.

Parents of Bulgarian blue helmets from Razgrad (northeastern Bulgaria) addressed an appeal to the president, parliament, the government and the Defense Ministry to discharge their sons from Cambodia. The appeal was written by three families and supported with the signatures of citizens of this town. [passage omitted]

At a press conference today Mr. Milan Drenchev, leader of the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) (one of the extraparliamentary agrarian parties) said that he cannot praise the cabinet for what it has done in its first 100 days in office. Speaking of possible early elections, Mr. Milan Drenchev said that his party will seek possibilities for joining a coalition.

Pig-breeders from Ruse (northeastern Bulgaria) are continuing their hunger strike in Sofia. They have no fodder to feed their pigs. On April 8 seven M.P.'s of different parliamentary factions moved a bill in parliament for transforming the debts of one-person commercial partnerships and state companies in stock breeding into public debt.

A group of inspectors of the General Staff of the Bulgarian Army will inspect units of the Turkish Armed Forces from April 13 to 16 in implementation of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, the Press Office of the Defense Ministry told BTA.

We proposed different options for the building of the former headquarters of the Communist Party but it is our duty to observe the decision of parliament, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov said before his departure for the economic conference in Copenhagen. According to the act on the confiscation of the property of totalitarian parties and organizations, this building was to be rented or used in other ways for raising social welfare funds but parliament's new decision to be given the entire building has the nature of a law and this new law repeals the old one, Prof. Berov explained. The government has to observe this decision and that is why it adopted the respective decree, Prof. Berov specified. [passage omitted]

Leaders and representatives of extraparliamentary parties of the political center and the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms specified in Sofia tonight the details of the signing of a protocol for cooperation. The signing of such a protocol would be a test for a future coalition, Mr. Lyubomir Ivanov, deputy leader of the Green Party told BTA. According to Dr. Petur Dertliev, leader of the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, this coalition would be of a social democratic nature.

The U.S. Kaufmann guided missile frigate cast anchor at the Bulgarian port of Burgas today. After last year's visit by the Whitby Island assault landing ship this is the second visit of good will by a combat unit of U.S. Sixth Fleet to Burgas. The captain of the frigate, James Frank, was received today by Regional Governor Stefan Konstantinov and by the Mayor of Burgas Prodan Prodanov. Captain James Frank pointed out that such friendly visits were unthinkable several years ago during the cold war and the fact that they are taking place now shows the realities of new military cooperation on the basis of mutual confidence.

Tanker Convoy Sails Without Permit

AU1304192093 Sofia BTA in English 1621 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Vidin, April 13 (BTA)—The Romanian ship Fileas, which yesterday was denied clearance to cast anchor in the port of Vidin by the State Shipping Inspectorate and the Vidin customs, sailed uncleared upstream by 8:00 pm [1800 GMT] on the same day.

By 10:40 pm on April 12, the Fileas sailed at full speed past Calafat, Romania, said Mr. Trendafil Doru, on duty at the port of Calafat authority. He notified his colleagues of the State Shipping Inspectorate in Vidin and the customs authorities. The Romanian assumes that the five-tanker convoy, carrying 6,000 tonnes of oil, was unloaded at the port of Prahovo, Serbia, which is 64 km to the northwest of Calafat.

After the Bulgarian control authorities turned the Fileas back downstream yesterday, Captain Balan Danut, who received orders to unload the oil in the port of Somovit, the only Bulgarian port on the Danube which has a petroleum products terminal, came alongside at the

755th km near the village of Simeonovo. Three members of the crew boarded a boat and made an unauthorized landing on the Bulgarian bank.

The Romanian ship was loaded in the port of Tulcea and the ship's papers identify Vidin as its port of discharge. The freight documents do not state a consignor and a consignee. The case has been reported to the General Customs Directorate and, through it, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Vidin customs chief Mr. Nedyalko Yolov said.

Ministry Bans Import of Animals, Meat from EC

AU1304111193 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] At a news briefing in Sofia, Agriculture Minister Georgi Tanev announced that a ban on importing milk, meat, and dairy products from the EC and transporting these products through Bulgaria has been imposed effective yesterday. Tanev said that the decision was not a retaliatory measure against the EC, but dictated by outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in EC countries.

Berov Admits Inflation May Exceed 60 Percent

AU1304110493 Sofia BTA in English 0910 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 13 (BTA)—In an extensive interview for the 168 CHASA weekly, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov admits annual inflation in 1993 may exceed the projected 60 percent. But he hopes it will not go beyond last year's 80 percent.

National Assembly committees today start debates on the draft budget. The draft is expected to enter the debating chamber this Thursday.

In his interview, the prime minister says the cabinet is convinced annual inflation cannot fall below 60 percent and that is why this is the figure set in the draft. According to Mr. Berov, the International Monetary Fund, which held talks in Sofia in late March, takes the same view. The prime minister also says the budget will be updated in September or October.

"The principle we applied in drawing the budget is the following: Last year's spending has been adjusted to inflation proportionally. So it is not possible to give some ministries half last year's amount and others twice as much," Mr. Berov says. All ministries receive more than in 1992, unless they made administrative changes.

Mr. Berov admits he expects small proceeds from privatization. "At this time, at least, there are not enough prospective buyers. Otherwise, we would like to speed up the process, we have formed a working group to improve the legal framework and created administrative prerequisites for a more intensive privatization," the prime minister said. He said this was due to several reasons: There are many ways to get round the law and privatize state-run property free, while everyone would like to make easy money.

Government Announces New Fuel Prices

AU1204171593 Sofia BTA in English 1330 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Sofia, April 12 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers today adopted an enforcement ordinance on the 1993 financing of agriculture act. Commercial banks will make loans to cooperative farms in liquidation, to farmers, farmer cooperatives, research institutes and experimental stations. Producers are obliged to insure crops and farm products for which the loans are utilized.

The Council of Ministers set petrol prices as follows: A-98 at 12.20 leva per litre, A-96 at 11.80, A-93 at 11.60, A-91 at 11.40, A-86 at 10.80. Unleaded petrol will cost 11.60 leva per litre and diesel oil 8.20 leva. The cabinet fixes new fuel prices every 15 days. Compared with the previous 15-day period, the new prices, taking effect as of April 15, are higher by an average 0.60 leva per litre. In February fuel prices jumped 50 per cent.

The government today decided state-owned enterprises can take out insurances with all insurance and reinsurance companies set up and operating in compliance with the Law. Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov had proposed that only the State Insurance Institute have the power to insure state-owned enterprises, quoting an effective article of the compulsory insurance act under which state enterprises can claim damages even if they have not paid an insurance premium. Private insurers protested strongly against this and urged that the existing legislation in the area be repealed and the state monopoly in insurance be broken up.

Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Neycho Neev today made a report on the construction and operation of new ferries between Bulgaria and Romania. The cabinet decided that experts of the interested ministries, the Defense Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior should start research. The Council of Ministers will discuss all projects.

The cabinet approved a Bulgarian-Finnish draft agreement for mutual investment promotion.

Deputy Prime Minister Evgeni Matinchev informed the cabinet of Mongolia's application for humanitarian aid badly needed after a recent disaster. The finance and transport ministries and the Red Cross will study opportunities to grant the request.

Khristo Matanov was approved for the position of director of the Religious Faiths Directorate with the Council of Ministers.

To check the rise in juvenile delinquency, the Council of Ministers today decided to set up a working group to draft legislation on children and juvenile courts within two months.

Russia Delays Delivery of Nuclear Fuel

AU1304133693 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian 7 Apr 93 p 2

[Lyubomira Nikolaeva report from Sofia on 6 April]

[Text] The negotiations on importing nuclear fuel for the Nos. 5 and 6 reactor units at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant through Tekhsnabexport have been temporarily suspended due to circumstances, National Electricity Company [NEC] Chairman Dyanko Dobrev told KONTINENT. A telex received today states that the restrictive measures introduced in Russia will delay issuance of visas by six weeks, so that the meeting planned in Sofia will be postponed. The NEC will propose that instead the Bulgarian experts should leave for talks in Novosibirsk. In response to the public accusations of the collapse of a favorable deal, the NEC asserts that the Bulgarian Trade Ministry has not made an offer to the NEC for the supply of nuclear fuel.

Of the three bids that the NEC has received, the Russian one is the most advantageous. The offer is for about 420 magazines [kaseti] charged with fresh nuclear fuel, which are needed to operate the Nos. 1-4 reactors in 1993. When the bids were examined, the Russian proposal proved most favorable. They offered the fuel for $51.4 million, with the Economic Bank acting as middleman. Dobrev gave the assurance that the Russian side was not responsible for the refusal to reprocess Bulgarian uranium concentrate. Dobrev had been informed by Russian Trade Representative Glavikov that as far back as last year, Deputy Trade Minister Racho Petrov informed him that the Rare Metals Company would offer the concentrate to Germany. According to informed sources, an attempt was made to reopen the door to the old markets after the collapse of this deal, but it proved too late.

According to reports, the efforts of the Rare Metals State Company to prove that the delivery of nuclear fuel would be more advantageous if Bulgarian concentrate was reprocessed were in vain. According to the Russian calculations, after processing the concentrate, the uranium in one magazine rod would cost $26.6 per kilogram, where Rare Metals offered to supply untreated uranium concentrate for a price of $42.50 per kilogram.

BSP Deputies Give Cabinet Mixed Review

AU1304140993 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] At the regular news conference of the Executive Bureau of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] today, the BSP parliamentary group announced that it had completed an analysis of the government's first 100 days.

The group contends that it was necessary to evaluate this period in relation to the policy directions declared by the government, which was the reason the BSP supported the government.

The government stated two main goals: to bring the country out of the intense crisis of political confrontation and to continue the reforms that had begun. The BSP contends that so far the government has largely succeeded in stopping the so-called war between the institutions and has managed to develop a constructive dialogue with the political forces, as well as contribute to a substantial decline in tension within the country.

Regarding the reforms, the cabinet performance so far is considered incomplete and contradictory. The economic reform is said to be proceeding sluggishly, and the government allows things that have nothing in common with professionalism and objectivity. This prompts the view that the government is concealing its actions from the public.

Commander Describes Radiation Monitoring System

AU1304133593 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 7 Apr 93 p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant Colonel Lyuben Zhivkov, commander of the Central Control Station for Preslav Combined Automated System for detection and assessment of the extent and effects of dangerous radiation and chemical accidents, by Lt. Col. Engineer Bozhidar Spasov; place and date not given: "We Monitor the Entire Country Around the Clock"]

[Text] In 1967 the State Defense Committee decided to build a radiation and chemical monitoring system covering the entire country. In 1975 the Council of Ministers instructed the Defense Ministry to carry out the task. After about six years of design work, construction of the Preslav Combined Automated Detection System [EASO] began in 1983.

[Spasov] What does the Preslav EASO represent today?

[Zhivkov] The system is designed to establish facts about dangerous radiation and chemical accidents, to determine their extent and effects, and supply this information to the state leadership, Ministry of Defense, and Army General Staff so that they can act to protect the civilian population and the troops. The system is deployed throughout the country and is made up of several subsystems: one under the Army General Staff with a central control station, a second belonging to the Civil Defense, others operated by the individual armed services, and yet others controlled by the ministries and government departments. The Central Control Station and the other authorities controlling the subsystems collect and store information daily about the radiation situation throughout the country, such as the background radiation level, the meteorological situation in the high layers of the atmosphere and ground layers, and the radioactive presence and contamination above the permitted concentrations. These measurements are taken at several places around the country where we have suitable laboratories.

[Spasov] Are any regions of Bulgaria not covered by the system? Does the system operate continuously?

[Zhivkov] Every day 778 radiation monitoring posts, distributed more or less uniformly over the country, covering the entire country, take measurements and monitor background radiation everywhere. The laboratories that measure the other pollutants, however, in the atmosphere near the ground are not evenly distributed. They are mainly located near large chemical plants that may produce pollution, for example, in Nikopol, Ruse, Plovdiv, Asenovgrad, and elsewhere. The Central Control Station, the computing and analysis stations of the Armed Services, and the Civil Defense Information and Analysis Center are on duty around the clock. The computing and analysis groups of the naval bases and formations of the Army are in the process of joining this 24-hour watch.

[Spasov] I have the impression that the military plays the biggest role in this system. Is this true?

[Zhivkov] Yes, most of the radiation monitoring and reporting posts are located in military facilities and equipped with modern dosimetric instruments. Although they cannot measure the lowest background radiation levels, they can monitor pollution like the type caused by Chernobyl. A military radiation dosimeter has already been developed that can measure the lowest background values. It is automated in order to exclude subjective measurement errors and transmit the information obtained.

The instruments used by the Civil Defense in the municipal town halls are of the most modern type, as are those used at the posts in the vicinity of the Kozloduy plant to measure the background radiation level in real time and with great precision.

[Spasov] Does the system completely satisfy national security requirements?

[Zhivkov] Our posts are equipped only with radiation measurement equipment, and are unable to conduct chemical monitoring. We do detect industrial poisons near the big chemical plants, because we have our own labs there. Because of their small number, our laboratories cannot, for example, detect the transfer of noxious substances across borders. We are now talking about erecting early warning monitoring stations on mountain peaks, because the transfer of noxious substances, whether they are chemical or radioactive, starts in the higher layers. With the aid of such stations we will get advance warning on such incidents, and therefore gain time for taking measures to protect the troops and the population.

[Spasov] Who has access to the data collected by the system?

[Zhivkov] All the offices making up the system have automated access through the computer at the Central Control Station, but only at the level authorized for each of them. The information system developed for the leading staff of the Defense Ministry and the Chemical Troops Directorate of the General Staff has full access. It is a question of assessing the amount and kind of information that each of them needs.

Berov Government Record Reviewed

AU1404095793 Sofia BTA in English 0907 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Tanya Tsekova report]

[Text] Sofia, April 14 (BTA)—In a little more than three months Prof. Lyuben Berov's cabinet has issued 139 decrees, ordinances and decisions, raised petrol prices by 50 percent, resumed dialogue with the trade unions and approved the 1993 draft budget. Prime Minister Berov signed the agreement on Bulgaria's association with the European Community in Brussels, and Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Karabashev signed the free trade agreement with the European Free Trade Association. Greece's Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis visited Bulgaria, both sides agreed that despite a certain stagnation, there was nothing to cloud the two countries' relations, they even managed to bring their positions on the recognition of Macedonia closer.

Lyuben Berov's cabinet took office on December 30, 1992, it was formed using the mandate assigned to the smallest parliamentary group—that of the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), after the two major political forces in parliament failed to form a government. Prime Minister Berov declared he would implement the programme of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) which governed the country until that moment, but the SDS refused him its support. The cabinet was elected thanks to the votes cast by the MP's of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the DPS and part of the SDS MP's who later on split from the SDS parliamentary group and set up a group of their own. The election of the cabinet changed the correlation of parliamentary forces. Having won the October 1991 general elections, the SDS now went into opposition, while the second biggest parliamentary force—that of the Socialists—became the largest one.

Taking over the executive branch, the cabinet defined itself as "a government of privatization." However, only one service station has been sold in its first one hundred days in office, and the several auctions announced by the Ministry of Trade just failed. The ministers amended the statutory instruments of privatization, making it possible to reduce the price of unattractive enterprises. The Privatization Agency updated its 1993 programme and the cabinet had an extraordinary meeting on the problems of privatization, but no privatization transactions have been made.

The national draft budget was submitted to parliament early in April and it is expected to be debated at a plenary sitting these days. The 1993 budget bill will probably serve as a kind of vote of confidence in the

government. Spending on education, culture and health care have been pared, the 16,000 million leva requested by the Ministry of Defence have been halved. The projected deficit of 27,000 million leva, or 7.9 percent of the gross national product, give raise to a lot of questions. The projected 60 percent growth of annual inflation is hardly realistic, because inflation has reached 19 percent in the first quarter taken alone. Finance Minister Stoyan Aleksandrov has discussed these parameters of the national budget at the talks with the mission of the International Monetary Fund. The talks were difficult, but the Ministry of Finance managed to argue the IMF mission into accepting the projected expenditure. The IMF insisted on increasing budget revenues by the adoption of new tax legislation. If certain conditions are met, a third three-year agreement with the IMF could be signed in May this year.

The political forces' opinions on the cabinet's first one hundred days in office are not much different from the way they voted for it. According to the SDS, these have been one hundred days of restoration and failures, the SDS believes that the performance of the cabinet in its first one hundred days shows it to be the most futile one after the collapse of communism in Bulgaria.

According to the DPS spokesman, the government has not used up its credit of confidence yet. The Socialists have hinted that the first one hundred days of Lyuben Berov's team will be judged by its hesitation to carry out its plans and that if need it be, the BSP will not shun responsibility and will take a more immediate part in the executive. The Socialists say that the draft budget meets their requirement for reform at a socially acceptable price.

The two major trade union amalgamations, the Podkrepa Labour Confederation and the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, find the performance of the cabinet in the social sphere satisfactory.

Opinion polls results show that according to the general public there have been "no significant actions" in the cabinet's first one hundred days in office.

Unloading of Trucks With EC Products Banned

LD1204164993 Prague CTK in English 1615 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 12 (CTK)—The Czech State Veterinary Administration (SVS) today banned unloading on the territory of the Czech Republic of all trucks carrying livestock, meat and dairy products that were not allowed to cross the border to Hungary and Poland.

In view of the restrictive measures adopted by the European Community (EC) to prevent imports of livestock, meat and dairy products from Central and East European Countries, Hungary and Poland have banned imports of these commodities from the EC. Trucks are being returned to the countries from which they arrived, and it is possible that they might try to store or commercially use their freight in the Czech Republic, the SVS said in its report.

The SVS has demanded police to check foreign trucks carrying livestock, meat and dairy products which are still on the territory of the Czech Republic, and to order them to leave the country within twelve hours after a warning, but by midnight April 13 at the latest.

Five trucks carrying live animals were returned to the Czech Republic from the Czech-German border crossing at Folmava today, CTK has learned.

Ministry Calls EC Ban Protectionist

LD1204182593 Prague CTK in English 1812 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 12 (CTK)—The Czech Foreign Ministry rejects the ban imposed by the European Community (EC) on imports of livestock, meat and dairy products from Central and East European countries as a protectionist measure.

In a statement issued today the Foreign Ministry said that the EC Commission's decision on the ban was taken without any consultation with the affected countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The ministry cannot find any rational grounds in the EC measure directed against the Czech Republic and thinks that the measure reflects commercial interests of agricultural lobbies from some EC countries, the statement said.

The ministry fears that the suspicion about the alleged occurrence of foot and mouth disease in Central and East European countries (cited by the EC) is a mere pretext used to protect EC farm production, and states that the decision is just another EC protectionist steps against Central and Eastern Europe, the statement said.

It noted that the Czech Foreign Ministry intends to raise the problem at a conference of representatives of the EC, EFTA (European Free Trade Association) and Central and East European countries on economic cooperation, which is scheduled to take place in Copenhagen April 13-14.

The Foreign Ministry's statement was joined by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture.

Klaus Protests to Luxembourg Over Ban

LD1304192693 Prague CTK in English 1809 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 13 (CTK)—A resolute protest against and indignation at the European Community (EC) commission's decision of April 8 to ban imports of live animals, meat and dairy products from the Czech Republic was conveyed today by Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus to Luxembourg Premier Jacques Santer.

The Press Department of the Czech Government informed CTK that Klaus asked Santer, who ended a private visit of several days to Prague today, to support the Czech position during forthcoming EC talks on the imports of meat and dairy products. Santer promised government support for the Czech Republic, the Czech Government Press Department said.

The Czech Government has stressed that the EC step, taken without prior consultation with the Czech Republic, heavily harms Czech agriculture, which is currently undergoing complex transformation, and is at variance with the EC's proclaimed support for the country.

In his talks with Santer, Klaus also pointed out other cases of discrimination against Czech exports to EC markets, the government Press Department said. It added that Klaus had mentioned especially curtailed steel and textile export quotas.

Havel, Economic Ministers Discuss Ban

LD1304202593 Prague CTK in English 1949 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 13 (CTK)—The Czech Republic does not want to respond to the EC's meat imports ban by an identical step and to carry out a non-selective policy, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said at a meeting of Czech economic ministers in Prague today.

The Czech Agriculture Ministry must thoroughly examine how the foot and mouth disease is spread in individual EC countries, Klaus said. The government will decide only afterwards how extensive the meat imports ban to the Czech Republic will be and for how long it will be imposed, Klaus stressed.

As to the Polish ban on meat imports from the Czech Republic, Klaus said that in a phone call Polish Premier Hanna Suchocka promised to him to examine the situation promptly and to inform Czech leaders. I think that the states of the Visegrad four (the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary) should take joint steps, Klaus said.

Representatives of the Visegrad four's Foreign Ministries are to meet in Prague on Wednesday to discuss their coordinated line on the issue, Klaus said.

The imports ban, including that of dairy products, might result in an increase of consumer prices of Czech products due to the lack of these products on the Czech market.

Cabinet Approves Cut in Military Service

AU1304161693 Prague CTK in English 1921 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)— The Czech Government will propose that the parliament shorten the term of compulsory military service from the current 18 to 12 months, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus told journalists today after his cabinet meeting.

He said that if approved by the parliament, the regulation will take effect in the middle of the year.

Participation in Former Yugoslavia

AU1304161793 Prague CTK in English 1930 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)— An amendment to the road traffic law, which was approved by the Czech Government today, will make it possible for highway sections to be built by private entrepreneurs who will then be allowed to collect highway toll on them, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus told journalists today.

Speaking after a government session, Klaus said that the first highway section built in this way might be the 83-km section between Plzen, West Bohemia, and the Rozvadov crossing on the Czech-German border.

The government also approved the Czech Republic's participation in U.N. peace-keeping operations on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, including the sending of a military unit and observers there.

Klaus on EC Import Curbs, Health Care Issues

LD1304202693 Prague Stanice Praha Radio Network in Czech 1630 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Regular weekly studio interview with Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Vaclav Musilek—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Musilek] Prime Minister, we could start our interview today by following up on one passage of the last interview when we talked about agriculture, when you said in connection with its protectionist measures that Europe is rather an irritant to us. Seemingly in order to confirm your words, the EC has halted the import of livestock, meat, and dairy products from all ex-communist countries because of an incidence of foot and mouth disease, despite the fact that tests carried out, for instance in our country, have not discovered any such disease. Does the government intend to take any further measures apart from those which it has already adopted, or will it choose a different course of action and react differently?

[Klaus] I believe that for one country to do things to spite another is the last thing that can help, and to react to one action by a similar action is, I believe, very irrational. This is because it is always the consumer, the citizen who pays for it. It is clear that it is the EC citizen who pays for the ban on imports to the EC. Of course, tomorrow we can strictly apply all hygienic, ecological, epidemiological, veterinary, and I do not what kind of other norms, and discover that every yogurt imported from the EC, which in any case is true, contains color of this or that kind—and I am not able now to describe it in technical terms—other than permitted by our norms, and we could simply say unequivocally that we are banning for hygienic or other reasons imports of yogurt into the Czech Republic. It does not matter whether that norm was set correctly 10 years ago or not, since it is stricter than the European one. Nonetheless, we could do this and obviously our citizens would pay for it. Therefore, these phenomena are very unpleasant.

By coincidence, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer was with me at 0830 this morning. He spent Easter in our country, and thus we had early morning talks. The curious thing is that he learned about this matter in Prague from the media. I myself have learned about it from the media. This is absurd. Since we are supposed to become mutual friends in Europe, and we are in favor of becoming friends, I believe that it would be worthwhile to consult and discuss such matters. The fact that prime ministers learned about it from newspapers is really absurd, and I have to admit that the Luxembourg prime minister was almost shocked and dumbfounded when he found out that neither myself nor anyone on our side had any knowledge of it.

That is one thing. The second thing is that I believe this event will be a test for the famous Visegrad group of countries [Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland]. This is because the matter will show, since we invented such a grouping, whether this grouping really possesses substance and contains something in itself or not. For tomorrow in Prague Minister Zieleniec has convened a group of foreign ministry officials from all Visegrad countries to demonstrate that when a real matter is involved, we are interested in cooperation with these countries and it will be really good to find out whether such interest prevails over a real issue like this, or whether it will go no further than fancy words.

It therefore does not appear to me to be a good thing that some of these countries have instituted a ban toward our republic. In the free trade zone which exists among our countries, they should not have done this without any consultation. [passage omitted]

[Musilek] Mr. Prime Minister, what knots need to be untied in order to make the transformation of the health care sector flow more smoothly? [passage omitted]

[Klaus] I do not consider health care to be a typical sphere where a blanket privatization—strictly outlined and organized—should take place. Such privatization should take place in standard industrial enterprises. I think it is not so easy to carry this out in health care

institutions. This is why I am against embarking on privatization fundamentalism. [passage omitted]

Thus, first, I would warn against privatization fundamentalism because health care services are different from producing this or that product. We cannot afford to have a gap for a single second here. [passage omitted]

I am very concerned about criticism that health care employees continue to be underpaid, etc. After all, probably all of us in this country are being underpaid—if we apply the western world's criteria to ourselves.

In 1993 the transfer of money from the public to health care employees via health insurance institutions is to be enormous, very big indeed, bigger than in other spheres of our life. Thus, I hope that none of the sides will put forward extreme demands.

KDS Urges End to Generosity Toward Slovaks

AU1304163393 Prague CTK in English 1928 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)— The Christian Democratic Party (KDS) will demand that the Czech Republic display a certain firmness at the next Czech-Slovak talks on federal property division issues, KDS Chairman Vaclav Benda told journalists today.

He said that there are no longer real reasons for magnanimous gestures on the part of Czech representatives and that their duty is to defend the interests of the Czech state.

While in the period of Czechoslovakia's dissolution a peaceful and quick division of the federation corresponded to both sides' interest and a certain generosity, accommodating approach and flexibility were necessary to defend the interests of the Czech Republic, it is not so today, Benda said.

Defense Ministry Appeals for More Funds

LD1304125093 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Czech Ministry of Defense is asking the Chamber of Deputies to allocate a further 10 billion korunas for the Army budget in the interests of the Czech Republic's security.

According to Jaromir Novotny, head of the international relations department in the Defense Ministry, this sum is necessary to rearm the Army because it needs to become compatible with the armies of NATO countries. The 32 billion korunas already allocated from the budget to the Army is just enough to survive, Jaromir Novotny said, adding that any different solution will mean soldiers being supplied with sticks instead of weapons.

Zieleniec Rebukes Deputy for Criticizing Klaus

AU1304160093 Prague CTK in English 2044 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)— Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec today criticized his deputy Pavel Bratinka for Bratinka's attack Tuesday [6 April] against Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus' foreign policy.

Bratinka, from the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), had reproached Klaus, who also leads the Civic Democratic Party (ODS), of not coordinating his policies with the Czech Foreign Ministry.

Zieleniec, who is also in the ODS, told Czech Television that it was unbecoming of a government deputy to criticize the premier. He added that playing partisan politics hurt the interests of the Czech Republic.

Bratinka had said coordination of foreign policy between the ministry and the premier was not one hundred percent. The deputy foreign minister noted on Tuesday that at numerous talks with foreign politicians he got the impression that Klaus' critical statements on the Visegrad group and the European Community are being used against Czech Interests.

Klaus expressed surprise at Bratinka's statement. I am in daily contact and debate with Minister Zieleniec on foreign policy and I think there is no conflict between us, he told journalists at a press conference following a cabinet meeting today.

Dlouhy Gets no Russian Guarantee for Oil

AU1304141093 Prague CTK in English 2113 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Moscow April 8 (CTK correspondent)— A Czech-Russian agreement on trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation was initialed here today during a meeting between visiting Czech Industry and Trade Minister Vladimir Dlouhy and Russian Minister of Foreign Trade Sergey Glazyev.

The document, initialed at the level of deputy ministers, is subject to approval by the two countries' governments. It envisions creating an inter-governmental commission to deal with the repayment of Russia's debt to the Czech Republic, and with regulating trade relations between the two countries.

The initialing of a protocol on Russian-Czech trade in 1993 was postponed for Friday, the last day of Dlouhy's three-day visit, since agreement has not yet been reached on the mechanism of payments.

Dlouhy also met today with Russian Minister of Fuels and Energy Yuriy Shafranik for talks on Russian oil import. While in the case of gas supplies Moscow has promised long-term coverage of Czech demands, similar guarantees have not been given for oil.

Dlouhy nevertheless told CTK that oil supplies from Russia have been smoothly running in the past few years and they are expected to continue without problems.

Russian oil producers, like the producers of gas, are interested in linking their supplies to imports of consumer goods from the Czech Republic. Dlouhy said that Czech enterprises importing these raw materials from Russia should be ready to ensure the goods demanded by Russian suppliers.

Direct contacts between Czech and Russian enterprises were discussed in Dlouhy's meeting with Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman of the influential Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, who is one of the leaders of the centrist Civic Union political bloc. Dlouhy said the sale of 620 locomotives from the Skoda Plzen (West Bohemia) engineering plant had been agreed.

During Dlouhy's talks in Moscow, Russian representatives have several times proposed that Czech-Russian trade, which has considerably decreased since the introduction of world prices and convertible currencies in payments, be revitalized by using national currencies.

Dlouhy told CTK that the Czech partners are ready to consider this proposal, but that he is pessimistic about its feasibility. The reason is, Dlouhy said, that this method is known to lead to the accumulation of national currencies on accounts without any possibility of their further use.

Klaus on Austrian Argument Against Temelin

AU1304162093 Prague CTK in English 2034 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)— Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus understands the Austrian public's concerns with his government's decision to complete the Temelin nuclear power plant in South Bohemia, 80 kilometers from the Czech-Austrian border.

In a letter addressed today to Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, Klaus said that Temelin will be put into operation once all its components and the overall technological concept of the plant meet the strictest European security norms.

Klaus was answering Vranitzky's March 19 letter, in which, on behalf of the Austrian Government, Vranitzky voiced disappointment at the Czech Republic's intention to rely on nuclear power. Vranitzky also appealed to the Czech Government not to discontinue a dialogue with Austria on power industry policies now that the decision on Temelin completion has been taken.

In his letter Klaus praised an Austrian proposal for cooperation in the power industry. He said he had charged Vladimir Dlouhy, industry and trade minister, with continuing Czech-Austrian cooperation not only at a bilateral level but on the international scene as well.

Klaus said that no rational argument pointing to new aspects of the Temelin problem had come from Austria. He expressed surprise that Austria had not acted towards its other neighboring countries who produce nuclear power with the same vigor as it has toward the Czech Republic.

Pollution Discussed With Saxony Official

AU1304140393 Prague CTK in English 2054 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 8 (CTK)— A phase-out program to bring down industrial pollution in northern Bohemia and Saxony, Germany, was discussed here by the Czech Minister for the Environment Frantisek Benda and the Saxon Minister for the Environment and Regional Planning Arnold Vaatz today.

The two ministers exchanged timetables for closing down sources of industrial pollution on both sides of the international border dividing the two regions.

They discussed common smog alarm rules and agreed to closer coordinate immissions monitoring.

Benda said that all big sources of industrial pollution in northern Bohemia would close down by 1998, while Vaatz stated that all large power plants in Saxony would be modernized or closed down by 1996, a spokesman for the Czech Ministry for the Environment Ondrej Turka said.

Regarding the River Elbe, which flows through the two regions, Vaatz expressed a willingness to give the Czech Republic a European Community grant originally received by Saxony for the Elbe water's clean-up, Turka stated.

Saxony rejects construction of new sluices on the Elbe, fearing this might alter the speed of the Elbe's flow with an ensuing drop in the river's self-cleaning capacity, Vaatz said. In Saxony, water from the Elbe is used by 8-12 million people, Vaatz said. Forests in low-lying wetlands close to Dresden would also suffer, Vaatz added.

For his part, Benda said he was sympathetic to Saxony's arguments and promised he would make them heard when the sluice construction issue in the Czech Republic came up for discussion.

First Army Battalion To Join UNPROFOR

LD1204160993 Prague CTK in English 1552 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 12 (CTK)—The first 106 men of the Czech Army battalion of the U.N. Peacekeeping Force in the former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) left for Croatia today.

The battalion's 326 soldiers have been trained at a centre in Cesky Krumlov, South Bohemia, since February 22. The first part will be followed by another two groups each after a week. The battalion comprises 261 reservists and 65 career soldiers.

The Czech Army battalion will replace the former joint Czech-Slovak battalion whose first units were stationed in Croatia in April 1992. The Slovak Army is now forming its own battalion which will be stationed at

another place Czech President Vaclav Havel said on Czech Radio Sunday that by participating in UNPROFOR, the Czech Republic demonstrates its will to bear its share of responsibility for peace in Europe.

Import of German Fuel Said To Cut Costs

AU1304163293 Prague CTK in English 1928 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Trebic April 7 (CTK)— A cargo of special containers with 127 fuel rods for the Dukovany (South Moravia) nuclear power plant's VVER Russian-built reactors was delivered from Germany today, a plant spokesman told CTK.

It was the second supply of fuel from the closed nuclear power plant in Greifswald in the former East Germany.

No Soviet-type nuclear power plant with the 440/213 VVER reactors is in operation in Germany at present, the spokesman said, making possible the sale of fuel by Germany's energy industry to the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Every one of the four VVER reactors at the Dukovany nuclear plant is being provided with 349 hexagonal sealed cartridges, one third of which have to be replaced each year.

The power plant's yearly fuel costs are estimated to be about 1.5 billion crowns (53 million USD). The only Russian producer able to supply the fuel cells needed by the plant charged about 4.5 million crowns (159,000 USD) for each fuel cell. Signing a deal with the German supplier has brought the Czech Energy Board a savings of about 40 percent on the usual price.

Unions, Employers Approve Tax Breaks

AU1304142693 Prague CTK in English 1904 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 8 (CTK)— The Czech Republic's Council of Economic and Social Agreement (RHSD), a tripartite coalition of government, trade unions and employers gave their approval today to the Czech Government's plan to give certain major tax breaks to private entrepreneurs.

The proposed law would grant entrepreneurs income tax breaks and health insurance benefits to encourage their activities.

Czech Finance Minister Ivan Kocarnik told journalists he expects the law to be passed by parliament by the start of May or June. RHSD members agreed that the bill presented to the Czech legislature should free entrepreneurs from taxes on the first 10 percent of investments made from profits.

Kocarnik stressed that the breaks would not mean an increased burden for other tax payers.

Regarding proposed wage controls, Kocarnik said the government was following the increase in salaries in January and February with concern, but would have to wait for more statistical data before holding talks on the matter. Prices rose by an overall 0.6 percent in March 1993, he revealed to reporters.

Names Removed From StB Collaborators List

AU1304155993 Prague CTK in English 0825 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 8 (CTK)—Most of the 179 people labeled collaborators of the former Czechoslovak State Security (StB) by the Interior Ministry who have petitioned to have their status removed have been successful, City Court official Jana Kamenicka told CTK today.

Under the 1991 screening law, the Interior Ministry released the names of people who were found to have been StB agents under the communist regime.

Former Czech Minister of Justice Leon Richter (June 1990-January 1992) was the first to be rehabilitated. His case was completely clear. Beyond any shadow of a doubt he did not cooperate with the StB, Kamenicka said. Richter's case was decided by the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic.

The petitioners rarely ask for large compensation. They are mainly concerned about honor, about their good name, Kamenicka said. The claimants want the court to state that they were falsely identified as collaborators and that the Interior Ministry may no longer accuse them with such evidence.

Poisonous Gas Released During Plant Accident

AU1304161893 Prague CTK in English 2032 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Prague April 7 (CTK)— Even if some poisonous substances did leak out in Monday's [5 April] explosion and subsequent fire at the Spolana chemical plant in Neratovice near Prague, they did not get into the environment outside the plant, Prague regional hygienic station officials told CTK today.

A total of 14 people were injured in the accident, one of them seriously.

The officials said that the gas phosgene released in the fire could only pose danger to employees working close to it.

Phosgene is a nervous gas which was used as a combat substance by Germany during World War II.

The material damage caused by the fire in the PVC polymerization division of the plant is estimated at three million crowns (over 100,000 USD), the chairman of a commission investigating the accident, Martin Dobes, told CTK. He added that operation in the division will be resumed April 16.

The cause of the explosion is not yet known, Dobes said, but excluded any equipment failure. It is possible that it was caused by the negligence of one of the employees, he said.

The condition of the man who suffered serious injuries in the blast remains serious, but he can now breathe without the help of a respirator, doctors from the Prague hospital where he was taken after the accident told CTK.

Foreign Ministry Protests EC Import Ban

LD1304204193 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic has adopted a stance today on the European Community's veterinary embargo on the import of livestock, meat, butter, and dairy products.

The statement says: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic condemns the blanket imposition of an embargo on all countries of central and east Europe, including the Slovak Republic, despite the fact that during an inspection on 1-6 April inspectors of the EC Permanent Veterinary Committee confirmed no cases of [foot and mouth] disease in the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers this move to be unsubstantiated and aimed at protecting EC interests against the interests of its partners of central and east Europe undergoing the integration process. The Slovak side will closely follow the further development of the whole matter and intends to propose its renegotiation within the framework of the conference on economic development in central and east European countries which has opened in Copenhagen. At the same time the Slovak side is also ready to discuss the problem within the Visegrad Four [Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland] countries.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic asks the EC Permanent Veterinary Committee to review the ban.

Cooperation To Face Ban Proposed

LD1304170093 Prague CTK in English 1601 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bratislava April 13 (CTK)—The Slovak Land Managment Ministry proposes joint steps to be taken by Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic to face the European Community's (EC) ban on meat and milk products imports from Central and Eastern Europe, Anna Majkutova from the ministry told CTK today.

The ministry has drafted a verbal note demanding that the EC re-consider the ban on Slovak meat exports to the EC countries and reopen the EC markets to Slovakia.

The ministry considers the EC measure irrelevant in view of results of an April 1-6 EC veterinary inspection in Slovakia.

The extraordinary veterinary measures ordered by Slovakia's State Veterinary Administration against the imports of both live animals and meat products must not be considered retaliatory ones, but a natural reaction aimed to protect Slovakia against the spread of the foot and mouth disease, Majkutova said.

The disease occured lately in Italy.

Hungary Reportedly Refuses To Confirm Border

AU1304155293 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 9 Apr 93 p 2

[Interview with members of the Slovak parliamentary delegation to Hungary by Bohumil Olach, in Budapest on 8 April: "No to Confirmation of Borders"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Olach] How do you see the contribution of the Slovak parliamentary delegation's visit to Hungary and in what ways did you expect more of this visit?

[Christian Democratic Movement Deputy] [Ladislav Pittner] The contribution lay in the frankness with which problems were discussed. Even well-known problems appear in a different light when they are broached in direct talks rather than through diplomatic channels. What aroused my concern was the border issue. The Hungarian side declares that it has no interest in foreign territory and in changing borders by force. But certain representatives of parliament allow for the possibility of certain conditions and demands, particularly demands of the population in border areas, leading to a non-violent, democratic changing of the border.

[Coexistence Deputy] [Stefan Harna] I do not share Mr. Pittner's view. No one formulated the issue in such a way during the talks. This seems to be Mr. Pittner's personal impression.

[Slovak National Party Deputy and Slovak Parliament Deputy Chairman] [Jozef Prokes] It is conceivable that the translations did not always accurately conform with the true formulations used by Hungarian politicians. However, we repeated the question several times: Is the Hungarian delegation ready to proclaim in any way the inviolability of our border? We always received an unequivocally negative reply.

Republic Joins Interparliamentary Union

LD1304131493 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday, 12 April, the Slovak Republic became a regular member of the Interparliamentary Union. The act of admitting the republic into the union took place during the opening assembly of the Interparliamentary Union's 89th session in Delhi.

The delegation of the National Council of the Slovak Republic consists of Ivan Gasparovic, parliament's chairman, and Peter Weiss, first deputy chairman.

Compulsory Military Service To Be Shortened

LD1304130693 Prague CTK in English 1227 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bratislava April 13 (CTK)—The Slovak Defence Ministry has prepared a bill advocating the shortening of compulsory military service from 18 months to 12

months for civilian recruits, a Slovak Defence Ministry spokesman told CTK today.

The new law should go into effect September 30, 1993. Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar, in his regular television appearance last Sunday, said the government had done everything it could to shorten military service.

Official Paints Bleak Picture of Slovak Economy

AU1304142793 Prague CTK in English 1816 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Bratislava April 8 (CTK)— The money owed to the Czech Republic by establishments administered by the Slovak Economics Ministry amounted to 34.9 billion Slovak crowns (1.2 billion USD) at the end of last year and 73 percent of it is now overdue, ministry's head Jaroslav Kubecka told a press conference today.

Kubecka noted a plunge in Slovakia's hard currency reserves. These dropped from an original 250 million USD to less than a tenth of that sum. The minister called this situation being way beyond the acceptable line.

This alarming drop was due to the unrestrained export of Slovak currency and the inability of Slovak enterprises to properly conduct business abroad, Kubecka said. He admitted that old-style foreign trade company system still executing trade abroad has outlived its usefulness today.

Overall production in Slovakia declined by 14.1 percent last year resulting in a loss of about 20 billion Slovak crowns (715 million USD). Only five Slovak energy companies were in the black with a profit of 12 billion crowns (429 million USD), Kubecka reported.

He said that among the ministry-administered enterprises, 283 were still in the black, 181 on the verge of collapse and 106 were viable but in a dire need of scarce bank credit. If credit is not found soon, Kubecka said that closing the companies would mean a loss of about 140,000 jobs.

Kubecka forecast that as the economic downturn persisted this year, more and more companies should experience primary insolvency. He added that the Slovak unemployment rate could reach 17 percent, up from 12 percent as of now.

Meciar Opposes Reopening Bugging Inquiry

AU1304142393 Prague CTK in English 1944 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Bratislava April 8 (CTK)— The ruling Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) will meet with the Democratic Left Party (SDL-former communists) Friday [9 April] to discuss support for the Slovak Government but not forming a coalition, Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar told journalists today.

Neither of the two parties is ready for such a step (creating a coalition), said Slovak Premier and HZDS Chairman Meciar.

On the recently revived scandal concerning the bugging equipment found at the U.S. Consulate in Bratislava last fall, Meciar said he considered the matter settled.

Bugs are insects which, we are convinced, are still in operation in the Czech Republic, but have become extinct in Slovakia, he said.

Press Views 'Erosion' in Ruling HZDS

AU0904141893 Prague CTK in English 0756 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Bratislava April 8 (CTK)— [passage omitted] Today's NARODNA OBRODA comments on the defection of eight Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) deputies to the group of independent deputies in the Slovak parliament. The erosion in the ranks of the HZDS will not necessarily end with these eight, writes the daily, adding that the increase in the number of dissatisfied people in the movement is already an open secret. Slovak Premier and HZDS Chairman Vladimir Meciar could face a serious situation which he might even have to resolve by non-standard methods, comments the daily. It writes that this would probably not mean early elections, however.

No politician is prepared to sign on with the government, and practically every political leader is calling for wider cooperation, writes SLOVENSKY DENNIK. It appears that the political situation will become still more complicated, and this will also depend on how the HZDS resolves its position regarding political dialogue and personnel problems, which are the particular domain of its leader (Meciar), concludes the paper.

PRACA writes that the situation of the governing HZDS is critical, and that Vladimir Meciar is left with two alternatives: an open coalition or dialogue with the opposition. It appears, however, that no one wants to form a coalition with the HZDS, writes the paper. [passage omitted]

The premier's conflict with (former Slovak Foreign Minister Milan) Knazko has its own political consequences, writes today's PRAVDA. The paper notes that in addition to the HZDS' loss of popularity in Slovakia, Meciar's own deputies have left the movement. Not even President Kovac is prepared to accept the personnel policy dictated by the HZDS leadership without opposition. No one can force the HZDS leadership to change its political style, but the movement itself must make the decision about this, writes the paper.

Fishermen Block Fish Imports

LD1304120793 Warsaw PAP in English 1138 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Koszalin, April 13—The Protest Committee of the Polish Sea Fishery imposed on Tuesday a blockade on the inflow of imported fish. The ships carrying fish to Poland will not be unloaded.

The protest has been supported by the Seamen and Fishermen Trade Unions, announced spokesman for the Protest Committee Krzysztof Pospolicki. The fishermen demand the lowering of fuel prices, preferential seasonal credits, the shortening of the protection period when cod fishing is prohibited and the increase of tariff barriers on imported fish.

There has been no information on whether there are presently any ships with imported fish at Polish harbours.

Council of Ministers Official on Reform

PM1304110293 Krakow GAZETA KRAKOWSKA in Polish 30 Mar 93 pp 1-2

[Report by correspondent Katarzyna Kolenda on statement by Minister Jan Maria Rokita, head of the Council of Ministers Office, issued at 29 March news conference; place not given]

[Text] "Poland is a poor country; nevertheless, its low national income does not justify the extent of poverty prevalent in Polish society," Jan Rokita, head of the Council of Ministers Office [URM], told journalists during yesterday's press conference.

According to Rokita, only a profound change in the self-government system, alterations in the principles of currency circulation, and decentralization can lead to a "genuine" rebuilding of the Polish state. Yesterday, during a meeting with mayors and sheriffs of Krakow Voivodship, Rokita endeavored to persuade those representatives of local self-government authorities of the advantages of the government project for an administrative reform aiming to restore a county [sub-voivodship administrative unit] system in Poland. The minister complained that many circles, especially in the rural sector, are hostile to the proposal, and that this hostility is encouraged by the Polish Peasant Party [PSL] leadership. Rokita insisted that the introduction of counties would facilitate the functioning of state structures, and at the same time offer greater possibilities for self-determination to local authorities.

"We need to secure public approval and support for the implementation of our projects. We do not want a situation in which the population views the reform as an anti-peasant move, the URM head insisted. He then added: "This is the first time I have attended a meeting at which there was not a single cretin present in the hall."

In a lecture addressed to journalists, Jan Rokita informed his listeners about the package of new ventures proposed by the government. He explained the need for a profound reform of all public service institutions, beginning with the URM—of which he himself is head—and ending with every single ministry in the state. In his opinion, the faulty flow of information and communications and a chaotic allocation of powers and authority vested in a variety of state officials and institutions are responsible for the fact that the state is sick and cannot function efficiently or effectively. "No one is interested in the mechanics of what goes on under the hood of the car. People only look at the external picture, whereas what happens under the surface is what matters," Rokita said. "I sometimes consider the possibility of proposing a provocative bill aimed at eliminating the institution of voivodship office. Perhaps this would shake those who have something to say in those matters."

Rokita complained that every attempt to reform the URM encountered protests not only from representatives of local opposition but even from members of the coalition cabinet who view such proposals as attempts to extend the power and influence of the minister at the head of the URM. "The reform must not be treated as a game to be played by political parties. All groups in the state must be drawn into that game," the minister insisted.

Asked by GAZETA KRAKOWSKA reporters to give his view on the proposal to expand the government coalition by inviting the PSL to join it, Jan Rokita said that he had nothing to say on that subject. "If a particular political group in the Sejm decides to support the reform-oriented campaign conducted by Hanna Suchocka's cabinet, we will be only too pleased. The question of what deals can be struck on that occasion is surely a secondary consideration." Talking to GAZETA KRAKOWSKA reporters, Rokita said that the government did not abandon its intention to secure the right to issue decrees. The relevant parliamentary bill will in all probability be presented at the first Sejm session following the Easter recess. According to Rokita, the Sejm should first announce its position on the Universal Privatization Program.

Foreign Ministry Official on Vancouver Summit

AU1304155593 Warsaw POLSKA ZBROJNA in Polish 6 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Jakub Wolasiewicz, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Europe Department, by Malgorzata Leczycka; place and date not given: "The Vancouver Summit and Poland"]

[Text] [Leczycka] What does the Yeltsin-Clinton meeting mean for Poland?

[Wolasiewicz] The meeting itself does not, of course, have to mean anything yet. In practical terms, only the implementation of the decisions made at it might have certain results that will affect Poland. For the time being, we only know about the financial issues that were raised during the talks between Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Clinton.

That concerns the American aid program for Russia. We already know that the aid will amount to about $1.6 billion, although it should also be borne in mind that $700 million of that sum is a credit that Russia will have to repay. It is a credit guarantee for Russia to purchase grain in the United States. The remaining elements of the program apply to various areas of Russian-U.S. cooperation.

There are reports that can lead one to surmise that this cooperation will develop with respect to, for example, the gas and oil industries. I am thinking of both the extraction and processing sectors of these industries. Although it is true that the amount of aid—and thus the U.S. Government donation for transforming the gas and oil industries—is not particularly large, it was, however, announced at the same time that American companies will invest about $2 billion in the extraction of oil and gas in the region.

As far as other forms of assistance are concerned, what is quite important—in propaganda terms too—is the American promise of assistance in the construction of housing for Russian Army officers who are being withdrawn from Poland, Germany, and the Baltic states. Previously, it tended to be said that this assistance would only apply to officers being withdrawn from the Baltic states. This was expressed, however, in a much broader form at the news conference. This can be said to be the first element that has direct bearing on Polish affairs.

Apart from the construction of housing, the assistance for Russian Army officers is also to apply to training those officers for civilian occupations.

[Leczycka] Russia needs various products. Will Poland be drawn into the system for delivering or selling those products? Will we earn anything as a result?

[Wolasiewicz] That will definitely happen within the framework of the U.S. aid program, but it will not happen within the framework of what was agreed to at the Yeltsin-Clinton summit. A characteristic feature of U.S. policy is that all programs designed to provide aid have certain domestic implications. It means, for example, that the guarantees related to the sale of grain to Russia also, in a certain sense, settle a domestic issue, namely, the question of U.S. farmers' grain sales. The situation of assistance for reorganizing gas and oil production is similar. Large U.S. oil and gas production concerns are behind it. It will, of course, be a pilot project, which will be followed by U.S. investment in Russia.

There is yet another element to the Yeltsin-Clinton summit, namely, Clinton's announcement that at the Tokyo G-7 summit, the United States will encourage the leaders of those states to participate more extensively in the aid operation. Perhaps some of the features in the programs that would be agreed on during the G-7 summit might cover some areas in which Poland could participate.

[Leczycka] Let us assume that the Russian economy will begin to grow. The population will become calmer and there will not be any disturbances. Can one say that Poland has been given an Easter present of calm on its eastern border from Clinton and Yeltsin?

[Wolasiewicz] I hope so. As I have already said, everything will depend on what steps are taken to implement the decisions. I am thinking of the G-7 summit in particular, because at present the effects of U.S. economic assistance are still not satisfactory. They are not enough in terms of having a significant impact on improving the state of the Russian economy. Only the results of the G-7 summit could have that kind of effect. It is worth remembering that during the walks that the two presidents took following Vancouver, when they met with representatives of the press, Yeltsin made a clear reference to Germany, which, over the past few years, has spent about DM100 billion on improving the situation in eastern Germany. What he said does not, of course, apply directly to U.S.-Russian relations, but it does set a certain tone in those relations. It would appear that much more generous programs are needed to effect significant changes in Russia's political and economic situation.

[Leczycka] In any event, the prospects today are more optimistic than before the Clinton-Yeltsin meeting.

[Wolasiewicz] Yes, there is no doubt about that. We have lately witnessed dramatic events in Moscow. The whole world, one could say, held its breath for a moment. Now the situation already seems to be normalizing. For example, Boris Yeltsin, as president of the Russian Federation, has held a meeting with another leader of highly industrialized state, and that has to be considered optimistic.

[Leczycka] When will President Yeltsin come to Poland?

[Wolasiewicz] A visit in the middle of June is being planned.

Vacaroiu Answers Questions on Social Issues

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian at 1405 GMT on 13 April carries a 55-minute program entitled Operation Sincerity (Operatiunea sinceritate), during which Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu answers listeners' questions.

At 1405 GMT an unidentified announcer greets Premier Vacaroiu, who is in the radio studio. The announcer then recalls the trade union protest actions of 12 April, during which "the people took to the streets to draw attention that the cut of subsidies as of 1 May is a measure bound to hurt them." He then asks the premier to bear that in mind while answering the questions posed by listeners.

At 1408 the first question comes from a retired person living in Suceava Municipality who asks Vacaroiu whether he thinks that it would be possible for him and his spouse "to live on a pension of 18,964 lei, to which a 4,900-lei compensation and a 5.8 percent indexation will be added as of 1 May." The pensioner reminds the premier that "with my 3,200-lei earnings that I had in December 1989 I could feed my family of five, I bought a two-bedroom flat, and managed to save some money, too. Unfortunately, those savings would not be enough even to buy a coffin now, as the cheapest one costs 24,000 lei."

Vacaroiu begins his answer by pointing out that the pensioner's question "is correct, and you have every reason on earth to raise that issue." He then mentions the fact that the figures concerning the compensations are merely one of the variants currently discussed by the government and points out the fact that "the compensations were calculated to fully cover the price hikes that will be triggered by the cut of state subsidies for fuels, energy, bread, milk, and butter. I would like to mention that the compensations were calculated on the basis of family budget statistics. However, this also means that they meet the needs of a family receiving living on an average pension" and not on a low one.

Vacaroiu then says that "transition to a market economy is a painful process at least until we get out of the current crisis, meaning that economy will work well enough to be able to offer sufficient resources to be used for social purposes, and we want to achieve that before the end of this year. Until then all of us, practically the whole population has to put up with such difficulty."

At 1415 GMT the next question comes from an employee living in Onesti, who has three children and is the only wage-earner of the family because his wife has been unemployed over the past year. The man asks whether there is a way out of the "impossible" financial situation of his family.

Vacaroiu replies, admitting that the cabinet has not managed to find appropriate resources to socially protect persons in "such unique situations." However, the executive intends to double children's allowances "instead of raising them by 200 lei, as initially planned." After the cut of subsidies, the government will closely watch the evolution of consumer goods prices and will interfere whenever it considers that their increase exceeds expected limits. Vacaroiu concludes his answer by reiterating the idea that only increased economic production can ensure the means to protect the socially weak.

At 1420 GMT a Bucharest listener complains to the premier about the "ridiculous" children's allowance of 400 lei she receives for each of his three children, considering that "20,000 lei a month is barely enough to feed a family of six."

Vacaroiu points out the fact that currently the average children's allowance is 1,500 lei, and the executive plans to increase it "to reach approximately 2,800 lei. That is not very much if one considers the spectacular increase of prices." Vacaroiu then points out that the cut of state subsidies will probably temporarily worsen the situation of such large families, but "that is an absolutely necessary measure to do away with corruption and black market, because currently we are subsidizing goods that never reach the population directly, but rather via the black market where prices are as high as if subsidies had already been cut. Think of bread, a kilogram of which currently costs 20 to 45 lei, whereas a kilogram of wheat costs 70 to 80 lei and wheat flour about 150 lei. I hope you realize the extent of illegal dealings that are taking place under such circumstances."

After answering questions referring to the problems of young couples, housing, old and handicapped persons, Vacaroiu discusses an issue raised by a Bucharest listener who complained about the doubling of the prices of certain goods over the past week, although the cutting of subsidies will only become effective on 1 May. Vacaroiu again blames the black market and corruption for the fact that "eggs currently cost 35 lei each and a slab of margarine costs almost 700 lei." He then points out the fact that the government could not freeze prices without endangering the transition toward market economy, but that it is conducting thousands of investigations to establish the identity of the corrupt persons causing such abhorrent price increases.

Vacaroiu answers listeners' complaints about the difficult situation of the handicapped. He says that the government is currently examining ways to grant more financial support to that social group. However, investigations are first to be made to identify the persons who, by means of corruption, have obtained handicapped certificates—without actually being disabled—to profit from state-granted benefits.

At 1445 GMT a Bucharest listener asks Vacaroiu the following question: "How much diesel fuel was consumed, in your assessment, by state-owned vehicles used in yesterday's union marches and rallies; who will pay for it and when; what are the consequences for agriculture; what sanctions do you intend to apply to persons who disobeyed the government decision forbidding the use of state-owned vehicles in such protests; what is the

monthly salary of the four union leaders who were shown on television last night (leaders of the union protests in Bucharest) and whether they receive their salaries for the work they do or rather for their activity as union leaders."

Vacaroiu replies that current Romanian laws compel state-owned companies to exactly calculate the losses caused by the use of their vehicles for private purposes. "Once the sum is established, the companies are to officially address to the appropriate trade union organization demanding the refund of all those costs. I would also like to point out that there is no country in the world in which private company owners would say to union members: Please take my trucks and drive to the rally! In our case the owner is the state and the costs are to be covered by the persons who caused them," Vacaroiu says.

Concerning the union leaders' salaries, Vacaroiu says that he has no knowledge of what they earn, but "it would surely be interesting to hear their answers if they were personally asked."

Vacaroiu answers two other listeners' complaints about inappropriate pensions, after which the announcer thanks him for having attended today's question-and-answer session.

The program ends at 1500 GMT.

Iliescu Returns From Visit to Arab States

AU1404104393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0705 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 14/4/1993—In a statement made in Bucharest, on his return from a visit to the United Arab Emirates, Syria, and Lebanon on April 13 night, President Ion Iliescu that stressed he was extended a "very friendly reception," was met with openness and receptiveness for the development of the relations on all planes with Romania. "I was able to note on the occasion the existence of a congenial climate and of feelings of friendship for Romania, the recognition of the role Romania has played as a friend in need, as well as of its part today as factor of stability in our region and a factor of support to the efforts the countries in the Near East are making for the promotion of the peace process. On the other hand, I have noted specific possibilities to develop the economic relations," the president said, stressing that "the Arab Emirates and the Gulf zone generally may be of interest to many economic units in our country." "In Syria and Lebanon I have found a congenial climate and appreciative words of the role played by Romania in the development of our friendly relations over the years," the president said.

"It was a substantial visit as regards the contents of the political talks and the analysis of the possibilities to develop the economic relations," Romania's president concluded.

Government Issues Statement on Union Rallies

AU1304185393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1700 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/4/1993—"Concerning the trade union protest rallies of April 12, the Romanian Government considers that replacing constructive dialogue—for which its has repeatedly manifested readiness—by street pressure is a negative influence on the executive's efforts to stop production decrease and relaunch the economy," reads a communique of the Romanian Government, and goes on: "Moreover, using transportation means property of the commercial companies for a demonstration of force, in the context of generalized efforts to overcome this year's most difficult moment—cutting all subsidies on May 1—had a psychological impact on the population and caused losses to the state companies owners of those means."

"The government expresses confidence that the most correct and simple way to overcome the current difficulties of Romanian society in transition is constructive dialogue—as the only way to join the efforts of all forces supporting reform, restructuring, and transition to market economy in Romania."

CDR Expresses Support for Trade Unions

AU1304165893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1133 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/4/1993—"Any attempt by the power or irresponsible factors to create discord between trade unions and their leaders, on the one hand, and the unions and the population, on the other hand, is a dangerous game, a diversion intended to mask the failure of this government's policy. This situation can be detrimental to Romania, both on a domestic plane and on an external plane," reads a communique of the Democratic Convention of Romania [CDR], signed by CDR President Emil Constantinescu.

After mentioning that an attempt is being made to divert the attention of the population from very serious matters and to compromise the unions' movement, the CDR release shows that the unions represent "a necessary mechanism to safeguard the employers' rights, and through them, those of the whole population."

The document is appreciative of the attitude of union leaders in this period, characterized by moderation, responsibility, and respect for the law, communication with those they represent and it says that it's the turn of those in power to prove openness and readiness to dialogue.

BNS Will Not Participate in General Strike

AU1304163793 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Dumitru Costin, the secretary general of the National Trade Union Bloc [BNS], he'd a news conference today. Costin said that the organization he is

leading will not participate in the general strike to be organized on 20 April by the Trade Union Consultative Council reuniting the Alfa, Fratia and CNSLR [National Council of Free Trade Unions of Romania] union organizations.

According to Costin, the BNS member unions are to stick to the schedule they established previously, namely to go on a general strike in the month of May if the executive does not meet their demands by then.

The BNS is interested in the solution of the requests of all its member trade union organizations, and therefore a two-hour warning strike is to be held tomorrow if the government does not comply. This means that all activity will be stopped in the ports of Constanta, Agigea, Braila, Tulcea, and Mangalia, Costin added, also mentioning the fact that today the Constanta port trade unions, employers, and Transport Ministry representatives are to hold a new round of negotiations he will also be attending.

Military Excercise To Be Held in Transylvania

AU1304201593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1535 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/4/1993—A tactical military headquarters exercise with communication in the territory will take place in areas near Oradea, Bistrita, and Alba Iulia (central and western Romania.) The headquarters of the Transylvania Army will command the exercise.

The action, part of the training program for the troops, will be attended by Lieutenant-General Dumitru Cioflina, chief of the Army General Staff—the press office of the Romanian Ministry of Defense informs.

Border Traffic Discussed With Moldovan Officials

AU1204190893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1703 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Galati ROMPRES, 12/4/1993—A meeting took place in Galati, on April 12, of foreign ministry representatives of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, also attended by representatives of frontier guards and customs officials on either banks of the Prut River.

The meeting was part of the periodical consultations between the two ministries and it brought into bold relief, among other things, the importance of the August 1991 agreement between the governments of the two Romanian states to facilitate their citizens' crossing the Prut both ways, free of any restriction.

It was noted with satisfaction that the tourist and merchant flow grew substantially. Last year, for instance, Romania was visited by over 3 million citizens of the Republic of Moldova, and 1.4 million tourists from Romania went to Moldova.

Wishing to further meet half-way the needs and suggestions of the travelers, it was decided that the frontier points should start operating according to the summer schedule on May 1, which means a considerable extension of the schedule of transition from one bank of the Prut to the other.

Two MiG Fighters Involved in Accident

AU1304161593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1442 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 13/4/1993—Two MiG-21 fighters, one of which was a double-seater were involved in the aircraft accident which occurred during a training flight near Deveselu airport at 1150 [0850 GMT] on 13 April, the Romanian Armed Forces' press office informs. One pilot safely ejected while the other two died in the crash.

A commission appointed by the defense ministry is investigating the causes of the accident.

Editorial Views Clinton-Yeltsin Summit Impact

AU0904093893 Bucharest TINERETUL LIBER in Romanian 6 Apr 93 p 1

[Aurel Perva editorial: Vancouver and Romania's Interests"]

[Text] The Clinton-Yeltsin meeting in Vancouver looks to me like a first clear signal that the United States is finally beginning to realize what is at stake in the game being played in the corridors of Kremlin. If the Russian leader felt obliged to declare that too much aid is also not good (we are very familiar with the eternal "We Are Not Selling Our Country" slogan of people everywhere who still yearn for the communist regimes), it means that the main goal of his trip to the Canadian shores was achieved and that the United States, and hence the West, is prepared to open their purses, before it is too late, to prevent an explosion that would certainly affect everybody. Therefore, there is a chance that, by pumping money on a massive scale into that colossus with feet of clay that is the former Soviet economy, and opening their own markets to goods from the Russian Federation, the West will contribute to a sufficiently fast economic and social recovery to prevent a dangerous deterioration of the situation, which the conservative forces may take advantage of.

From our viewpoint, a viewpoint of neighbors, who are more anxious than anybody else—and rightfully so—about the potentially dangerous developments in the former Soviet Union, things are not quite so simple. It is obvious that the radical change of perspectives regarding relations between the two military colossi gives cause for joy. The change from contention to partnership is more than beneficial for the overall climate. Washington's unequivocal support for Yeltsin's reform policy is another extremely positive factor. Nevertheless, when the two great powers understand each other too well, there may be reason for concern for the small ones.

History can offer more than enough evidence for that. For the sake of global interests, small regional and even local interests have been and can be sacrificed on occasion. In a recent debate organized by our newspaper with representatives of the political media, the current authorities were seriously admonished for not issuing statements of firm support for the reformist bloc in Moscow. The answer confused me, but a careful examination shows that it is based on a very acute reality, which can be summed up in a question that goes like this: From the viewpoint of Romania's interests, has Yeltsin being in power in Moscow stopped Russia's imperial trends? Obviously not. The Dniester conflict and the presence of the 14th Russian Army on Moldovan territory are abundant proof of that. Of course, this does not mean that a victory of the Rutskoy wing might not make things even more unpleasant for us. However, the massive economic help and substantial political support granted to Yeltsin might also mean that the American spirit of understanding has gone even farther, by recognizing Russia's "right" to interfere in the peripheral areas of the former empire, where independent republics have emerged in the meantime. Washington's legitimization of such a role—designed to counter the pressure applied on Yeltsin by the imperialists and to appease the Army's susceptibility—might be tantamount to an undesired prolongation of the Yalta spirit, which runs counter to the course taken by the East a few years ago. As for Romania, the consistent attention with which Washington looks upon this part of Europe might also represent a sign of encouragement. Romania's stability is already an integral part of the calculations of the new geopolitical axes, something which might lead to a significant improvement in official Romanian-U.S. relations. President Ion Iliescu will soon be in Washington, not as a guest of the White House, but as a participant in the opening of the Holocaust Museum. There, depending on the treatment extended to him by officials, we will see whether what is valid for Yeltsin is also valid for us and if we have any chance of obtaining the clause [on most-favored nation status] this year. Likewise, everybody will be able to see whether or not the rapprochement between the big ones is good for the small ones.

Bartholomew Satisfied With Mostar Talks

LD1304164193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report from Mostar by Veso Vegar]

[Text] U.S. peace envoy Reginald Bartholomew stopped in Mostar today in the framework of his peace tour of the republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The eminent guest was welcomed by Mate Boban, president of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna; Jadranko Prlic, president of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO]; and Bruno Stojic, a representative of the HVO defense department.

In the talks which followed, they discussed paths to a solution to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Vance-Owen peace plan.

Bartholomew spoke as follows about the talks with the representatives of the Croatian nation in Bosnia-Herzegovina: The talks went on very well and were very frank. I spent much more time with Mr. Boban and the delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in New York, and I am very satisfied with today's talks here.

HVO President Jadranko Prlic said that he asked Mr. Bartholomew to exert maximum pressure on the Serbs to sign the Vance-Owen plan, and on the Muslim leadership in Bosnia-Herzegovina to observe what they have signed, i.e. the Vance-Owen plan.

Following the talks, the U.S. peace envoy made a tour of the ruins of Mostar.

Karadzic Comments After Talks With Russia's Churkin

LD1404085293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0132 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Apr (TANJUG)—President of the Serb republic Radovan Karadzic said late last night that the Russian deputy foreign minister and special envoy for Bosnia, Vitaliy Churkin, did not come to talks in Belgrade with a concrete proposal and that he had no specific stand on the maps issue.

In a statement for TANJUG following the talks Karadzic said that Churkin "is trying to help the warring sides to reach some kind of accord."

"Although we believe that direct talks are irreplaceable, it is still useful to have the assistance of the American and Russian diplomacies in our search for a solution," Karadzic stressed.

"It is very difficult to agree on anything if there are no direct talks between Serbs, Muslims, and Croats," he explained and added that "the international community should really insist on direct talks because that is the only way to end the conflict."

"We deeply appreciate Mr. Churkin's efforts directed toward finding a solution. We believe that the meeting with Bartholomew tomorrow will also be useful. However, all this cannot replace direct talks because what is at issue is the possibility of exchanging territories and agreeing on territorial issues," Karadzic said.

In his opinion, a big problem concerning the maps as they are now is that the Croats "are more than satisfied with them, and they feel no need for face-to-face talks," while the Serbs and Muslims are rather dissatisfied.

"The time has come to tackle the problem of maps in a package and to help the warring sides in direct talks," Karadzic said.

Asked whether it is possible that Bartholomew will come to Belgrade with a new proposal for maps which could satisfy the Serb side as well, Karadzic recalled that the U.S. envoy has had meetings with representatives of the Muslims and Croats.

"A message through a mediator can be important if the Croats and Muslims are interested in ending the war and reaching a solution, which can be done only if it is acceptable for the Serbs as well," Karadzic said.

He noted that in doing this certain new facts must be taken into account, for example the fact that the Serbs had to leave western Slavonia, central Bosnia, and western Herzegovina, and that province number three can under no circumstances be allocated to the Croats—the only thing that can be discussed is how to divide it.

According to him, the Serbs will not give up on the corridor [linking Serb-held territories in Bosnia and Croatia with Serbia proper] or province number three, because they are essential for the survival of the Serb nation in the Serb republic and the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

"The international community cannot and must not insist on the Serb community in Bosnia being separated in the fashion of Nagorno-Karabakh because that would certainly be a cause for constant tensions and conflicts in the Balkans," Karadzic said in conclusion.

UNPROFOR's Wahlgren Protests Srebrenica Attack

LD1304220793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 2105 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] Commander for former Yugoslavia General Eric-Lars Wahlgren has sent Radovan Karadzic a protest over yesterday's deadly artillery attack on Srebrenica. According to an UNPROFOR spokesperson in Sarajevo, UN forces are working to establish a helicopter airlift between Srebrenica and Tuzla in order to evacuate the wounded. A company of Canadian soldiers is also on standby for deployment at short notice into Srebrenica.

Silajdzic Assesses Meeting With Tudjman

AU1404110493 Zagreb GLOBUS in Serbo-Croatian 2 Apr 93 pp 9, 10

[Interview with Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic by Davor Butkovic in Zagreb; date not given: "In a Week or Two, We Will Inform Vance and Owen About a Croatian-Bosnian Military Pact"]

[Text] After a three month delay, the Bosnian delegation signed the Vance-Owen plan in New York—the plan that divides Bosnia-Herzegovina into 10 provinces. Following this, the Bosnian Muslim delegation arrived in Zagreb. On 27 March, Alija Izetbegovic, Haris Silajdzic, and their close associates talked to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. The talks lasted far into the night. It seems that the talks were very successful. Once again, an agreement concerning the joint action of Sarajevo and Zagreb was reached. Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, with whom we talked following Izetbegovic's press conference in the Bosnian Embassy in Zagreb, may have never talked so tolerantly and with such good intentions about Croatian and Muslim relations.

[Butkovic] Why did you hesitate so long before signing the Vance-Owen plan? What have you accomplished with the delay?

[Silajdzic] There is a big difference between the Geneva variant of the Vance-Owen plan and the New York variant, which we have now signed. Much like Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina is a great international problem. This problem cannot be seriously tackled without involving important international factors. The United States was not present during the Geneva negotiations. Although informally, the Security Council also rejected the peace plan proposed in Geneva.

In New York, however, representatives of the United States and Russia participated in the negotiations along with EC and UN representatives.

Second, the participation of the United States in solving the Bosnian crisis is a great guarantee. From now on, the Bosnian question will always be on the agenda in talks between the United States and Russia or between the United States and the EC.

[Butkovic] But what did Bosnia-Herzegovina—or to quote the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosnia, the Muslim side—actually achieve regarding the content of the Vance-Owen peace plan with this delay? The Muslims were not satisfied with this plan. Did anything truly important change in the plan?

[Silajdzic] We managed to make several changes regarding the content of the plan. The most important is the survival of the legitimate political structure of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The first version of the Vance-Owen plan stipulated a suspension of Bosnia-Herzegovina's state structures. We insisted on the continuity of the authorities elected in the democratic elections. This new version of the plan, which we have now accepted, clearly defines the functions of the Presidency and the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is very important because the first version stipulated some kind of coordination body that was not clearly defined, and a presidency comprised of nine members in place of the most important, legitimate bodies of authority in Bosnia- Herzegovina! We have now achieved a continuity between the prewar Bosnia authorities and those stipulated by the Vance-Owen plan.

[Butkovic] Croatian military analysts believe that by hesitating to sign the plan you have provoked grave consequences for your country. Instead of greater pressure on Serbia from the time when the Bosnian Serbs remained the only ones who did not sign the plan or an attempt at establishing peace, the war raged on, leaving the Muslims with even less territory in eastern Bosnia than they had before?

[Silajdzic] The Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation cannot simply write off Bosnia-Herzegovina; it cannot degrade its state status. This would have happened if we had immediately signed the first Geneva version of the peace plan! Had we signed it immediately, we would have de facto and de jure written off the legitimate political system of Bosnia-Herzegovina! No one has the right to do this! You see, the first version of the plan literally asked for a suspension of the Bosnian Constitution. Should the president of Bosnia- Herzegovina have suspended the Constitution of his state? Moreover, the Security Council would not have accepted such a decision. It would not have accepted the literal disappearance of a UN member country. Vance and Owen never took any of this into account.

[Butkovic] Were you supported by the Islamic countries?

[Silajdzic] No, this is a completely inaccurate supposition that is present in the Croatian and Western public. Venezuela exhibited the most determination in rejecting the first version of the Vance-Owen plan, which was not beneficial for Bosnia-Herzegovina's statehood. Brazil also resisted the first version!

[Butkovic] I can understand your political reasons. However, in the course of the negotiations regarding a final version of the peace plan, you have suffered more casualties and received new refugees. Was it not in your interest to quickly create conditions for a cease-fire or at least avoid having the Muslims blamed because there was no cease-fire?

[Silajdzic] First of all, I have no faith in the cease-fire that went into effect today. Second, there were no guarantees that by signing the Geneva version we would have held on to the territories we have since lost.

The first version did not even mention the possibility of engaging the NATO forces! Furthermore, a decision about enforcing the Security Council Resolution about a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina will soon be passed. Moreover, the Russians and the Americans have talked about solving the Bosnian crisis. That is why I

believe that even on the military level, we are now in a far better position than if we had signed the Geneva peace plan two months ago. Had we done this, we would have gotten only feeble promises that the war would be stopped and we would have lost a great deal, both politically and militarily.

[Butkovic] According to many political analyses, it is believed that Izetbegovic and you are playing a game with high stakes, hoping that the United States will strongly support your concept of Bosnia-Herzegovina's organization, thus preventing its division into 10 provinces. According to these analyses, you did not want to sign the plan as long as you were counting on open and effective American help.

[Silajdzic] That is not correct!

[Butkovic] Were you expecting direct military help after the change of authority in the United States?

[Silajdzic] All the participants of the peace conference were expecting a firmer American attitude! Not military help, but a more committed involvement of the United States in the Bosnian crisis. I am a professional and believe me, I know very well just how far the United States will go in its actions, just as I know whether an action is possible or impossible. I am not so naive as to expect too much!

[Butkovic] But Mr. Secirbey, your ambassador in New York said in mid-January in an interview for GLOBUS that he has informal but firm promises from representatives of the new Clinton administration that they would help Bosnia-Herzegovina. He also said that this was the reason why Sarajevo did not have to agree to the Vance-Owen plan.

[Silajdzic] I am the foreign minister. There is a big and essential difference between what a foreign minister and an ambassador says! We had no official American promise regarding military help to Bosnia-Herzegovina. I do not care to discuss possible private conversations and moreover, I do not believe that they are relevant. What is important for me are official statements by U.S. State Secretary Warren Christopher.

What is new and vital in the U.S. attitude toward Bosnia-Herzegovina is Christopher's straightforward statement that the United States accept the peace process, but not the first version of the Vance-Owen peace plan. It is very important to distinguish between an acceptance of the peace process—which we support—and the implementation of the first proposed plan.

[Butkovic] Did you expect that the Clinton administration would do more when it came to lifting the weapons embargo and exerting concrete military pressure on Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs?

[Silajdzic] It is Europe and not Clinton who is obstructing the lifting of the embargo! Even the co-chairmen have said that they would not oppose the lifting of the weapons embargo if the Serbian side rejects the peace plan. Therefore, the Clinton administration wants to lift the embargo and enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Two days ago, President Clinton said that the international community, and I quote, "is losing patience and can no longer wait when it comes to the butchering in Bosnia. That is why, together with our allies, we our reviewing the possibility of lifting the weapons embargo." Those are Clinton's words.

However, the Security Council is the only one who can decide to lift the weapons embargo. Any one of the five permanent members can veto this.

[Butkovic] It has been seven days and the Security Council cannot even agree on whether to enforce a no-fly zone over Bosnia!

[Silajdzic] If it was not for the danger of a veto, the Security Council could reach such a decision in 15 minutes! It is obvious that a lot depends on the development of the situation in Moscow. The basic question is how to support Yeltsin; will it strengthen his position if the international community gives in to certain requests of the conservative forces? A similar question applies to the territory of the former Yugoslavia because the international factors thought that they could placate Milosevic by giving in, but I do not think that any concessions could placate Milosevic.

[Butkovic] How do you explain several official announcements by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army's command that they would not allow a division of Bosnia according to the Vance-Owen plan?

[Silajdzic] The political leadership of Bosnia-Herzegovina makes decisions concerning the fate of the country and the implementation of the peace plan. The Army does not conduct the policy of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Army defends Bosnia-Herzegovina!

[Butkovic] But the Army has found itself in the middle of political disagreements because the leaders of the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] for the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosnia insist that Sefer Halilovic, the commander of the Army, is actually a Yugoslav agent. This was confirmed by Prime Minister Akmadzic in a recent interview to GLOBUS.

[Silajdzic] You know yourself that Akmadzic claims that Alija Izetbegovic is not the president of the Presidency and that the government is not legal! How can he then be prime minister of a government whose existence he does not even recognize?

I believe that people go too far with such accusations and that they do so carelessly. Internationally, such statements meet with great resistance. The world recognizes this legitimacy and respects the authorities elected by the majority of Bosnia-Herzegovina's citizens. The international factors do not have understanding for the quarrels between Croats and Muslims, which are to the disadvantage of both. The world expects the Croats and Muslims

in Bosnia and the states of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to cooperate closely; they do not want unnecessary disagreements.

[Butkovic] You say that the international factors respect the legitimate representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, who should they respect: you as foreign minister or Akmadzic, who is the prime minister of your government, since the two of you very often have quite different political directions with different goals? The prime minister of your government accuses the commander of your army of being an agent of the aggressor's army; after this, how can you and Akmadzic cooperate at all?

[Silajdzic] Such grave accusations need to be proven! No one from the HVO has so far managed to confirm the accusations against Halilovic. As for the relations between my prime minister and myself, I act according to the written documents on the political platform of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Government and written instructions of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Butkovic] The official attitude of Croatian politicians in Bosnia-Herzegovina is that in negotiations concerning the solving of the Bosnian crisis and the organization of Bosnia-Herzegovina, you and Izetbegovic are the representatives of the Bosnian Muslims and not the representatives of Bosnia-Herzegovina's authorities.

[Silajdzic] Although he is the prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Government, Akmadzic himself says that in negotiations, he only represents the Bosnian Croats! That is his problem. In negotiations, we represent the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina and not only the Muslim people.

[Butkovic] What do you begrudge about the Croatian political leadership in Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Silajdzic] If I were in Boban's place, I would view the situation in the context of future relations of Croats and Muslims, not in the context of a struggle for daily political profit. Any kind of conflict between Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is extremely unnatural. We have not only been living together for hundreds of years, but have always lived in sincere friendship. The present conflicts are unnatural and they have been forced on us.

[Butkovic] From Sarajevo, however, you very often hear accusations that Boban is trying to establish a state within a state through the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosnia. Do you support these accusations?

[Silajdzic] I believe that some of Boban's moves lead to this; I have told him so quite clearly.

[Butkovic] Is there a tendency among the Croatian politicians in Bosnia-Herzegovina to annex parts of the country that are under the control of the HVO to Croatia?

[Silajdzic] No, this was never discussed! I have never heard that anyone even proposed anything to this effect.

[Butkovic] You have finally signed the documents that sanction the division of Bosnia into provinces. However, wasn't the reason for conflicts between Croats and Muslims in central Bosnia due to precisely this division since the Muslims did not agree to have the Travnik province under Croatian jurisdiction?

[Silajdzic] The provinces are not ethnic areas, they are mutual areas. The problem arose when certain moves were made that turned the provinces into ethnic areas. The people who became a minority became frightened that they would be second-class citizens in an area where they have always lived. This cannot be allowed. All the citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina must have the same rights everywhere.

[Butkovic] Which of the conflicting issues between the Muslims and the Croats and between the states of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina did you discuss with President Tudjman last Saturday [27 March]?

[Silajdzic] We agree and have reached the same conclusions on many issues. We both have a sincere desire for an even better understanding. However, there are still disagreements when it comes to relations between the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the HVO.

[Butkovic] Can you explain the difference in the HVO's approach and that of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army when it comes to establishing joint commands?

[Silajdzic] We have still not established joint commands, although this is what both the Muslims and the Croats are striving for. This is because we have still not found a way to merge the command structures, a way that would ensure that neither the troops of the HVO nor the troops of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army would feel the domination of the other. They are both afraid of being subordinated.

[Butkovic] Could we then talk again about forming a Muslim-Croatian coalition in Bosnia?

[Silajdzic] I would not use the word coalition. What we have here is something much more significant. We are talking about mutual interests, mutual action. Moreover, I am convinced that we will reach an agreement soon concerning the joint commands and that in a week or two, we will inform Vance and Owen about the results of our negotiations.

[Butkovic] The war in Bosnia began a year ago. According to your estimates, how many casualties are there so far?

[Silajdzic] I am afraid there have been around 200,000 of them, mostly civilians.

[Butkovic] Does the signing of the Vance-Owen peace plan in the end really mean the failure of Izetbegovic's

and your, actually Muslim, idea of the political organization of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the success of Boban's policy?

[Silajdzic] The success of Boban's concept does not necessarily mean the failure of our idea of Bosnia-Herzegovina! The Croatian idea of Bosnia does not exclude the Muslim idea of Bosnia. If the decentralization of Bosnia reduces somebody's fear of the domination of the majority population in Bosnia, then I am all for decentralization!

I consider it normal and desirable that the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina should learn and speak Croatian, the Muslims Bosnian, and the Serbs Serbian. I also consider it normal and desirable that the Croats, if they want to, should open Croatian schools and have Croatian television and radio stations. So where is the problem?

[Butkovic] In the fact that the Croats wanted broader self-management and Sarajevo wanted more authority for the central state authorities.

[Silajdzic] If the Croats wanted greater decentralization and if the Vance-Owen plan makes this possible for them, then we have nothing against it! The important thing is that the central authorities have kept the elementary state attributes, without which no state is a state.

Boban Says Vance-Owen Plan Follows Croats' Ideas

LD1304215293 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Every point of the Vance-Owen plan is based on the political option of the Croatian Democratic Community [HDZ] of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Croats' concepts, said Mate Boban, president of the Herceg-Bosnia HDZ and head of the delegation of Bosnia-Herzegovina's Croats at the peace talks, in an interview today to USORA, the newspaper of the Central Bosnia Croatian Defense Council.

Asked whether the signed agreement meets the political aims and interests articulated by the decision to establish the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosnia, Boban said that international political factors know that the concept of the political organization of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is precisely based on the Bosnia-Herzegovina Croats' idea and that of the Bosnia-Herzegovina HDZ because they have been rejecting the war option from the very first day, as well as the idea of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a unitary state, that is, a Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a greater Serbia. He added that the Croats were the only ones defending Bosnia-Herzegovina at the onset of aggression and that they have liberated over 35 percent of its territory.

Had it not been for our struggle, our political option and resistance, Boban said, those members of Bosnia-Herzegovina's leadership who held the same posts before the war would be touring the world in their capacity as Milosevic's ambassadors today, saying that their warlord is doing a good job. Boban reiterated the political stand of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Croats about Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state within its current borders where all its peoples enjoy the same rights.

UNHCR's Mendiluce Doubtful About Srebrenica

AU1304170593 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Zagreb, April 13 (AFP)—The UNHCR is putting the finishing touches to plans to evacuate the entire Srebrenica enclave if the Moslem pocket in eastern Bosnia falls to its Serb attackers, UN special envoy Jose Maria Mendiluce said Tuesday.

The news came as 11 trucks of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees evacuated wounded women and children from a massacre there Monday, for the Moslem-held town of Tuzla, some 90 kilometres (60 miles) to the northwest.

"We are working on a worst possible case scenario for Srebrenica, which means we will be forced to help evacuate the entire population if the enclave falls or if the panic is so great that people start to flee on foot for Tuzla," he told a press conference here.

Mendiluce held out little hope for the besieged enclave, adding that "if no decisive action is taken at the highest international level, Srebrenica will not be saved."

He said he could not guarantee a place in a lorry or on a bus for each of the 50,000 people he estimated were trapped in the enclave, whose numbers are swelling with each Serb advance.

"We will need hundreds of vehicles," he said, outlining plans to take the population through Serb-held territory.

"We will use all the means at our disposal in the region as well as those waiting in Zagreb and in other regions, and which could be sent to Srebrenica in four to five hours," Mendiluce added.

The UNHCR was counting on the carving out of a corridor between the enclave and Tuzla.

Serbs To Allow 'Unhindered Passage' of Aid Convoys

LD1304185093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1733 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Bijeljina, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—The government of the Serb republic today disclosed that its military and civilian authorities will allow unhindered passage of all convoys regardless of whom they are taking humanitarian aid to. The government added that it is ready to continue cooperation with international organizations.

A statement on the government intentions submitted at today's meeting in Bijeljina between representatives of the Serb republic and the International Committee of the

Red Cross stresses that international organizations will have "to announce their humanitarian actions well in advance" in line with the laws of the Serb republic.

"We will not tolerate refusal to carry out regular inspections of convoys and personnel, and any abuse will be punished," the statement stresses.

The statement adds that there are numerous and almost daily abuses of the humanitarian aid actions, and "contrary to international norms and the laws of the Serb republic, they are being used to deliver ammunition and weapons to the opposing side and to transport personnel illegally." This causes deep dissatisfaction and justified anger on the part of the Serb people, the statement says.

In spite of this, the government expresses its readiness to continue constructive cooperation with international organizations, stressing that without their assistance, all three nations on the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina would be exposed to even greater suffering, and there would be even more victims of the interethnic and religious war.

"We hope that international humanitarian organizations will demonstrate a cooperative spirit and that reasons that could lead us to re-examine our cooperation will be removed," the statement of intention concludes.

Serb Forces Claim NATO 'Provocation'

AU1304152993 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] As we said at the beginning of the program, NATO aircraft are continuing to patrol the skies of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Unlike yesterday, the fighter aircraft are flying more slowly and lower. They have also begun taking photographs, as Branislav Bozic reports:

[Begin Bozic recording] In comparison with yesterday, the speed of the aircraft has been reduced almost threefold: from 900 to 300 km per hour. Their altitude has also been reduced: from 7,500 meters, it is now 3,000 meters.

As the command of the air forces and the anti-aircraft defense of the army of the Serbian republic in Banja Luka reports, as of 0630 [0430 GMT] this morning, 23 formations have flown above the former Bosnia-Herzegovina along routes over Herzegovina and Krajina. The same source reports that photoflash bombs and rockets were dropped over Kljuc, Laniste, Sipovo, and Mrkonjic Grad in order to take aerial photographs, which runs contrary to the decision on the control of the skies above the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is considered to be a provocation, but the units of the army of the Serbian republic did not respond to it.

The announcement also says that a certain number of these aircraft also flew over a part of the republic of Serbian Krajina, along the Gracac-Obrovac-Knin-Benkovac line. This is also contrary to the Security Council resolution. In its announcement, the air force command asserts, although it fails to state it more precisely, that the activity of Croatian aviation has been also increased. It is also claimed that some signals have been registered in air drop operations which are not serving humanitarian flights. [end recording]

Sarajevo Radio Reports More Helicopter Overflights

AU1404095193

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0800 GMT on 14 April reports fighting in the following areas:

A report from the press center of Srebrenica armed forces says that "daily mass killing of the civilians is threatening to exterminate the population of approximately 80,000 residents completely." The report wonders "how many more children, women, and old people must die in one day for the world to comprehend" the scope of ethnic cleansing that is underway in this region. The report says: "Six people died and nine were wounded by Chetnik grenade fragments between 1800 [1600 GMT] and 1830 yesterday." The report also notes "two attempts at an infantry breakthrough yesterday afternoon." "The aggressor again occupied the village of Skenderovic, which had been burnt earlier," the report continues, adding that "a fierce attack by the aggressor's special troops against defense lines in Sutjeska took place at 1700." It is reported that after several hours of "fierce" fighting, "the aggressor was forced to retreat." The shelling of the village of Sutjeska ensued, the report says, in which two civilians were killed and four wounded.

From Brcko, correspondent Hamiz Deronjic says "that the Serbo-Chetnik occupiers continue the destruction of the town of Brcko with unabated ferocity." He reports "two horrendous explosions" were heard from "the temporarily occupied Brcko territory" at 2030 GMT last night. He is of the opinon that "a systematic destruction of economically the strongest town in the Bosnian Sava Basin" is underway. Then Deronjic reports that "no messages have been received from the temporarily occupied territory of our town" in the last 30 days, "not even written messages that used to be conveyed by the Red Cross representatives and enemy's commission for exchange of prisoners."

A report by the press service of the Gradacac war presidency claims that "the aggressor's attacks are intensifying every day." It is reported that 60-mm, 82-mm, and 120-mm mortars are "increasingly" being used in the attacks. "The western part of the defenses in Zelina, (?Medzidza), and Jasenica were exposed to combined artillery-infantry attacks" yesterday, the report says. "The situation was very similar in Ukici, Huskici, and Brdo," where the Chetniks in Liporasce and Grabov Gaj were "sporadically but ferociously" pounding civilian targets and the defensive lines with pragas [expansion unknown] and mortars. The report also says that "two

helicopters flew above Pelagicevo and Tramosnica at 2115, and one in the the direction of Brcko-Bosanski Samac" last night. The report concludes that the morning "is passing with the usual infantry provocations, especially on the northwest part of the front."

From Zivinice, correspondent Sefik Gadza reports that "the Zivinice information center at 2105 registered an overflight of an enemy helicopter on the Sekovici-Majevica route."

"Chetnik heavy artillery attacks on the civilian quarters of the town are growing more intense every day," Hajrudin Permic reports from Maglaj. As he reports, they used "Maljutka guided rockets, 120-mm mortar bombs, and 155-mm howitzer grenades" in their attacks yesterday "and it is a real miracle that there were no casualties." Permic reports that "tank movements were noted in the region of Jovici and Bakotici." As he further reports, the defense lines were attacked by Bofors anti-aircraft guns and infantry arms. He assures listeners that "the fighters of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the units of the Croatian Defense Council are defending their positions firmly and readily."

Muslims Launch Attacks on Croatian Villages

LD1404100593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] We have unfortunately again received news on Muslim attacks on Croats in central Bosnia. Muslim forces this morning launched an attack on the Croatian village of Buscak in the Konjic municipality. By 0830 [0630 GMT] they had fired more than 50 shells on the village. The village is surrounded.

As we learned in the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] in Mostar, an attack was launched on Buturovic Polje this morning as well. HVO soldiers thwarted an attempt by Muslim forces to cross the Jablanica Lake from Ostrozac to Falanovo Brdo.

Muslim extremists in Travnik fired about 10 shells this morning immediately after UN Protection Force members left the town and set off towards their base in Vitez. Several shells fell near the HVO command building in Travnik.

Serbian Guns Pound Srebrenica Area

AU1304182193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 93

[The Srebrenica Press Center report]

[Text] A recoilless gun pounded Potocari from Kaolin near Bratunac from the early morning hours until 1100 [0900 GMT]. The burnt-out villages of Ljeskovik and [word indistinct] have been fiercely targeted today by a multiple rocket launcher from Mitrovac in Serbia and tanks from (?Lutnicko Brdo). The eastern defense line of Srebrenica, and the defense lines in the area of Suceska have been exposed to mortar fire from the occupied Osmace, Kopresko Brdo and Derventa.

Serb Soldiers Die in Cease-Fire Violations

LD1304220693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2123 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—The agreed cease-fire on the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina "was violated fiercely and on a mass scale by Muslim-Croatian forces today. As a result, the Army of the Serb republic suffered losses. Five soldiers were killed, while eight others sustained injuries," the Information Service of the General Staff of the Army of the Serb republic announced this evening.

A statement sent to TANJUG says that the most frequent cease-fire violations were registered in the region of Podrinje, where the Muslim forces continued with the previous offensive actions from Gorazde and Zepa toward Srebrenica, and from Tuzla toward Srebrenica. They also continued attacks on Serb territories toward Skelani and Bratunac. [passage omitted]

In Operation Deny Flight over former Bosnia-Herzegovina about 90 aicraft flying at a speed of approximately 700 to 1,300 km per hour and at an altitude of between 7,000 and 9,000 meters were recorded between the time the operation began until this evening. The most frequent flight routes were the following: Drvar-Petrovac-Sanski Most-Kotor Varos-Jajce-Mrkonjic Grad-Grahovo-Drvar; Stolac-Mostar-Konjic-Kalinovnik-Nevesinje-Stolac; and Sibenik-Zadar-Zirje Island.

In addition to these, flights over the entire territory of the Serb Republic and in former Bosnia-Herzegovina were recorded. Flights by the Republic of Croatia Air Force also were recorded.

Muslims Reportedly Firing on NATO Planes

AU1304170393

[Editorial Report] Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1300 GMT on 13 April carries within its regular 42-minute newscast several reports on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ratomir Blanusa reports on Serbian republic army units halting "Muslim forces" from breaking through from Srebrenica to Skelani saying that "the heaviest clashes occurred in the wider Osmace region. Yesterday's attack by Srebrenica Muslims had a tragic outcome for the Serbian side: 17 Serbian fighters were killed and 14 were heavily or lightly wounded. The Jihad warriors perpetrated a real massacre on the wounded fighters. They stabbed them with pitchforks or finished them off with mallets and axes. The bodies of 14 young Serbian men were brought into the [place name indistinct] in a charred conditiuon. The Muslim side has also suffered great losses, both in manpower and military equipment."

Radoje Tasic reports on a Muslim offensive in the Visegrad area, saying that a "most ferocious battle is being waged between the Green Berets and members of the Second Podrinje Brigade of the Serbian army from Visegrad along the Medjedja-Orahovci-Zaglavak line" and that "large losses in manpower have been inflicted upon the enemy who are still using every kind of available weapon, particularly 82-mm and 120-mm mortars and mountain guns. In the ranks of the Serbian army, which is defending the approach to the Visegrad hydroelectric power station and the town itself, three fighters have been killed and several wounded. As I report, battles are still under way."

Drago Todorovic reports from Foca saying that "again last night Izetbegovic's forces tried to force a corridor from the direction of Gorazde toward [name indistinct], that is, Igman. The Foca defenders prevented this, it is said in today's announcement by the Serbian military command in Foca."

A studio announcer says that "Croat-Muslim forces failed to respect the truce in Capljina-Stolac and Mostar-Nevesinje line last night again, it is said in this morning's announcement by the Bileca Hercegovina Corps Information Service."

Vlado Trisic reports from Majevica that "at about 1700 [1500 GMT] yesterday, Muslim units stationed in the broad region of the Dubrave Airport near Tuzla fired antiaircraft and infantry weapons at the NATO aircraft that are flying over this region on the basis of Security Council Resolution 816, the Press Center of the Eastern Bosnian Corps of the army of the Serbian republic announced today. Therefore, the first monitoring flights of NATO aircraft have already shown the Muslim side's real intentions: to cause an incident at any cost and then blame the Serbian army for it and cause attacks on Serbian ground positions and targets."

Serbian Force Reports Reconnaissance Flights

LD1304133993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1224 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Banja Luka, 15 Apr (TANJUG)—The Serbian republic's air force command reported today that 23 groups of aircraft were registered over former Bosnia-Herzegovina by 0630 [0430 GMT] and that they carried out mainly reconnaissance flights. The command's statement says: In the operation of enforcing control of the airspace of former Bosnia-Herzegovina, 23 formations were registered by 0630. Flight routes (over Krajina and Herzegovina), the lowering of speeds to 300 kmph and of altitude to 3,000 meters along parts of the routes between Milici and Jahorina, Milici and Zepa, and between Kalinovik and Rogatica and other details of these flights show that they were mainly reconnaissance flights.

Contrary to the tasks given by the international organization, the aircraft also flew over parts of the republic of Serbian Krajina, along the Gracac-Obrovac-Knin-Benkovac route.

According to field reports, flares were dropped to aid aerial photography over Kljuc, Laniste, Sipovo and Mrkonjic Grad. [passage omitted]

Sarajevo Radio Reports 'Enemy' Overflights

AU1304094193

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0800 GMT on 13 April reports several overflights by "the enemy" helicopters and transport aircraft in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

"The Chetnik helicopters continue to fly over Brcko region," a dispatch from Brcko claims, adding that "a larger group of the Serbian transport aircraft was noticed at approximately 2200 [2000 GMT] last night," flying on Bjeljina-Pelagicevo route. "The enemy yesterday evening embarked upon a fierce mortar attack in the central part of the Brcko battlefield," the report further states. It is reported that Brod and Brodusa were attacked by 60-mm caliber mortars. However, "the lines of defense remained stable," the report says. "The Chetniks were also opening intense fire from Brownings, M-84 automatic rifles, and light infantry arms at Dizdarusa and Omerbegovca," the report states.

A report by the press service of Gradacac commune reports "new helicopter overflights over free Gradacac." "The aggressor was flying continuously between 2115 and 2230 last night, regardless of the resolution," the report goes on and adds that the helicopters were flying in the direction of "Brcko, Pelagicevo, Turic, and Porebrice." "These were most probably the flights of the transport helicopters who were bringing new troops to the enemy on this battlefield," the report speculates. "The combat activities on the Gradacac battlefield are intensifying by the hour," the report then says. It is mentioned that "the aggressor" yesterday opened fire from 120-mm mortars at the defense lines and the free territory. The report further says that "the aggressor" last night pounded the positions of our defenders in the industrial zone of Gradacac with "recoiless guns, and Osa and Zolja rocket launchers." "The morning in Gradacac is passing with sporadic infantry provocations and mortar activities north of Gradacac," the report concludes.

"Fierce battles were fought on Maglaj battlefield in the afternoon," correspondent Hajrudin Permic says. "At approximately 1625 the Chetniks launched an attack by tanks and ZIS [antitank] guns at the positions of our defenders in the region of (?Pripraga)," he says. According to him, all attacks were resisted. Civilian targets in Gornji Bradici and Donji Bradici were subsequently attacked with guns and recoiless guns, Permic reports.

Correspondent Adnan Djonic says that "the Chetniks" last night "sporadically and unexpectedly" pounded the town of Zavidovici. The morning is passing with "aggressor's provocations" from antiaircraft machine guns and 82-mm mortars at Hajdarevici, Djonic further reports. He says: "We have also noticed aggressor's

helicopter flying toward Ozren." He reports that the morning in the region is peaceful.

Tuzla, Other Cease-Fire Violations Reported

AU1304122893

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network at 1000 GMT on 13 April reports additional cease-fire violations in the republic:

Tuzla correspondent Enes Osmancevic says that "the Chetniks are intensifying their attacks on all battlefields, according to the reports from the field." "The Chetniks have been stepping up infantry and mortar provocations against the first lines of our defense since morning," he says, noting "the regrouping of Karadzic's bandits." He reports, "the situation on the battlefields around Kalesija is similar." Osmancevic says that a general alarm was sounded in Banovici at approximately 2350 GMT because "on two occasions Chetniks in Svrg pounded civilian quarters with heavy artillery." "Sporadic Chetnik attacks on the Banovici defense lines continued this morning," Osmancevic says, "as well as the shelling of civilian targets in Ribnica, Mujici and (?Spihe)."

Bihac correspondent Mehmed Aliazulic says that "a tank grenade landed in the town center shortly after 0700 [0500 GMT]" this morning. Afterward, the residential quarters of Bihac came under howitzer fire, he reports. According to him, "several large caliber grenades" were also fired at the defense positions this morning.

Reporting on last night's infantry attack "against the free Visegrad and Gorazde territory," correspondent Mustafa Kurtovic says that "1st Drina Light Brigade from Rogatica, 2nd Drina Brigade from Visegrad, and (?5th) Drina Brigade consisting of extremists and Chetniks from Gorazde" took part in this "Chetnik" attack. As he reports, "the fighters of 43rd Drina Shock Brigade efficiently halted the attack, inflicting great losses on the Chetniks" in the process. "The situation was the fiercest around the free territory of Visegrad and Rogatica," he reports. After "successful" resistance to the attack, Kurtovic goes on, "our fighters moved into a counteroffensive," and expanded "the free territory of Gorazde region by several tens of square kilometers." "In the unprecedented fighting, 23 Chetniks were liquidated and several wounded," Kurtovic says and adds that "plenty of infantry weapons, ammunition, food, and camping equipment" were also confiscated. "They seized a considerable amount of combat documents belonging to the Drina Corps and to the brigades, from which one can see the Chetnik plans for Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde," Kurtovic continues. According to him, three members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army died in yesterday's fighting. He then reports last night's shelling of civilian targets. He says "over 1,000 grenades landed on the free territory of Gorazde region," killing three and seriously injuring five civilians. "As of this report, the Chetniks grenades are falling all over the free territory," Kurtovic concludes.

An announcer-read report on the situation in Sarajevo says that "the Chetniks" are "aiming intense fire from a death sower [machine gun]" at Srebrenik. A death sower in Trebevic is reportedly firing at Jarcedol and Hridi, while four grenades landed in Marijin Dvor at 0800 GMT. She also says that sniper fire in the Novo Sarajevo commune "is pronounced."

Tudjman Discusses Issues With Bartholomew

LD1304215793 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Republic of Croatia President Franjo Tudjman this evening received the special U.S. envoy for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Reginald Bartholomew. They discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and its possible resolution on the basis of the Vance-Owen plan. They also discussed problems regarding the UN-protected zones and the implementation of the Vance plan in the Republic of Croatia, especially regarding UN Security Council Resolution 815.

Serbs Open Artillery Fire on Dubrovnik Area

LD1404103593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] A general alert was sounded in Konavli at 1143 and a few minutes later in Zupa Dubrovacka. Serbs from Trebinje are attacking the area with artillery.

At around 1020 the Serbs again launched an attack on Zadar from their strongold in Zemunik Gornji. About 10 shells hit the town. No casualties were reported.

RSK Threatens To Attack Unidentified Planes

LD1304110693 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0940 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Knin, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—Reliable sources have told ISKRA that NATO planes violated the republic of Serbian Krajina's [RSK] airspace 15 times by 0800 [0600 GMT] today, flying at an altitude of 7,000 meters and at a speed of 900 km/h. Krajina radar registered flights of two Croatian MiG-21's above the Benkovac area at 1200 yesterday.

UN military observers and the chief of the EC's regional center in Knin have been notified about the unannounced flights with a demand for an explanation. RSK representatives lodged a sharp protest, saying that unidentified aircraft flying over RSK territory will force Krajina forces to open fire as the aircraft could belong to the enemy.

Major General Mile Novakovic, the commander of the main headquarters of the Krajina forces, demanded an urgent meeting with the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] commander of Sector South and proposed a meeting with the commander of UNPROFOR for former Yugoslavia and the commanders of all UNPROFOR sectors in Croatia.

RSK Requests Information on Overflights

LD1304160993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1507 GMT 13 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 13 (TANJUG)—Foreign Minister of the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) Slobodan Jarcevic on Tuesday drew the attention of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to the fact that incidents were possible due the presence of Croatia's military aircraft in RSK airspace.

The Republic of Serbian Krajina has been proclaimed on a predominantly Serb-populated territory of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia and it is a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA).

The RSK foreign minister said in the letter sent to the U.N. secretary-general that Croatia, which launched aggression on the RSK on January 22, was using the air force along with strong land forces. He said that, moreover, the NATO aircraft, which started enforcing the no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on Monday, were also using RSK airspace.

Jarcevic insisted that the NATO command centre immediately establish a link with the RSK military command so that information could be exchanged in the mutual interest and misunderstanding avoided.

In the letter sent to Butrus-Ghali, a copy of which has been sent to TANJUG, the RSK foreign minister said two unidentified MIG-21s had "launched a low-level sortie" over Donji Zemunik, near the coastal town of Zadar, on April 12 at 12:00 hours local time.

Paspalj Says All Serbs Must Live in One State

AU1304202893 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 4 Apr 93 p 4

[Interview with Mile Paspalj, chairman of the assembly of the republic of Serbian Krajina, by Branislav Gulan; place and date not given: "With the Croats—A Chinese Wall"]

[Text] *After the assembly of the republic of Serbian Krajina held in Beli Manastir, everything seems to have remained the same, at least at first glance - Goran Hadzic is still president of the Republic, Mile Paspalj chairman of the Assembly, and a proposal to make Djordje Bjegovic mandator of the government, has been accepted. At the very beginning of the Assembly, deputies from Lika, Banija and Kordun asked for a vote of (no) confidence in the leaders, which was evaluated as being an unsuccessful coup. Nevertheless, after a vote of confidence in Mile Paspalj was passed, the Assembly finished its work on a more serene note. We discussed this with the old-new head of the Krajina parliament.*

[Gulan] There was a lot of pressure on you during the Assembly. A vote of (no) confidence was demanded. How do you evaluate the situation now?

[Paspalj] I have been a member of the SDS [Serbian Democratic Party] and have participated in the struggle against the Ustashas from day one. However, later the SDS started to split into factions, and this affected Lika and Kordun. This was followed by the unfortunate Vance plan, which I did not sign, nor did I sign any other document under pressure. Even nowadays in the Krajina, people are still getting killed and are disappearing. However, this is not the work of the Ustashas. People simply disappear. An electoral campaign is under way in the Krajina. A thirst for power is literally tearing apart Banija and Kordun. Tudjman's mercenaries, war profiteers are doing this. Tudjman has already allotted 200 million German marks to this cause. Moreover, present in all this are the desires of certain individuals who want to return to the political scene.

There, you see how far the individuals who are tearing apart the Krajina will go: Mile Dakic used to say publicly, "Gentlemen, to talk with the Croats on an equal footing, we must reintegrate into Croatia." If to this you add the fact that Uros Fundina is saying how the republic of Serbian Krajina does not exist, it becomes clear that the people surrounding Milan Babic are not doing him a favor. Fundina is even saying that we have to go back to the Croatian Constitution. I, who took up a rifle on the very first day, claim that we will never again live together with the Croats. That is why I say that what we want to build with the Croats is the Great Wall of China.

[Gulan] How would you evaluate the Korenica Assembly and Milan Babic's role?

[Paspalj] It is obvious that this assembly, at which I was removed and Petar Cvetkovic was appointed, had been hastily called. Both the assembly and the letter that Babic sent Butrus-Ghali had for their goal secession and the destruction of the Krajina. It is quite unacceptable that a municipality should send a letter to Vance informing him that a civic state does not function in the republic of Serbian Krajina and that we are disunited. As for Milan Babic, his contribution to the creation of the republic of Serbian Krajina is great, but at the moment, he does not fit into Serbian policy. He even supported DEPOS [Democratic Movement of Serbia] in the electoral campaign. At the moment, he could not possibly head the republic of Serbian Krajina. Apart from this, we never doubted his good intentions, nor did we ever claim that he was Tudjman's man. That is why I claim that the Korenica Assembly was a farce. Its concept was to break the Krajina into regions, which is the only thing that would suit Tudjman. Therefore, the fate of the Serbian people in the Krajina cannot depend on only one man (Babic), who only wants power.

[Gulan] Most of the remarks at the Assembly had to do with the fact that you supposedly did not want to call it because you were afraid that you would get a vote of no-confidence.

[Paspalj] I did not call the assembly for two reasons. First, I asked all of the municipalities to let me have certain information, yet two, three months passed, and some of them had still not come up with it. The other reason is that we were drafting the Law on the Army. Moreover, I was the one who proposed a vote of confidence. The result was that out of the 220 people present, 147 voted in my favor.

[Gulan] You claimed that you and your family were being threatened. You also misjudged the circumstances in Banija and Kordun?

[Paspalj] Both myself and my family were threatened with murder, rape, and the destruction of our house. Without my knowing it, my relatives took the family to Pancevo. It is true that I was offered an apartment on Dedinje, or Novi Beograd, but I turned down all of this. I sleep in Glina and Benkovac, in a retirement home. I also spend time on the battlefield, where I do not see any of these secessionists. The people have to know that we are for the unity of all Serbs, and not for brotherhood and unity, which led to all this.

[Gulan] You often mention "duality of Serbs"?

[Paspalj] There are Serbs who are for a Serbian state, but there are also those who favor duality, and even mention dual citizenship with the Croats. This is unacceptable. Dual citizenship is fine, but with the mother country, Serbia, which is helping us. Therefore, these are two completely different concepts. Moreover, now there are leaders in the republic of Serbian Krajina who want to be presidents of all the Serbs. Today we already have such a president—Slobodan Milosevic. He believes, and so do we, that all the Serbs have to live in one state. The process of merging the Serbian people is under way. Today, all the people think the same, from Leskovac to Benkovac. If we want to survive, we must unite. [Box, p 4]

The Serbian State is Defended on the Kupa River

[Gulan] You mentioned that all kinds of things are happening in Banija and Kordun. You drew attention to looting, murder, the disappearance of people?

[Paspalj] Most of the communal assembly chairmen that supported the Vance plan have been removed. Some were removed, others silenced, and some were even liquidated. No one established who did this, nor was anyone charged. You see, people were murdered, but not by the Ustashas. Now even the globe-trotting snobs are returning to the Krajina, yet they were not here when they should have been carrying a gun on their shoulders. Once the civic state is completely established, the long arm of the law will catch up with all of them. Even today, the prisons in the republic of Serbian Krajina are full. The Serbian state is being defended and it will be defended on the Kupa River.

Government Consults With Economists

93BA0824E Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 20 Mar 93 p 1

[Article by Bozena Kriznik: "Critical Year for Success of the Economic Reforms"]

[Text] *In a consultation with prominent economists, the Slovene Government wanted to verify the correctness of its economic policy orientation for this year.*

Ljubljana, 119 Mar—A lot of questions are arising for the Slovene Government regarding how to continue the stabilization that has begun and achieve the most favorable economic results possible in the short term. That is why it first of all wanted to check its orientations for economic policy until the end of the year with the assistance of prominent Slovene economists. Prime Minister Dr. Janez Drnovsek, together with several ministers in the economic area, thus met today with the Slovene economists, presented the government's economic orientations to them, and asked for their opinion and suggestions.

The consultation was not just a theoretical consideration of economic policy, and there was also a discussion of the economic program for this year, which the government unfolded publicly for the first time on this occasion; its path leads on to parliament. Drnovsek began by pointing out several dilemmas which which the government is dealing: one of the fundamental issues is whether stabilization and the curbing of inflation are really the right basic goal, or whether the attitude toward monopolists and the public sector is the correct one; what kind of role the state should have in restructuring and rehabilitating enterprises and banks; how to encourage exports; what the exchange rate policy should be like.... The program for economic and social policy measures that was presented shows how Drnovsek's government decided on these issues. At the consultation, it was presented in rough outlines by Minister of Economic Relations and Development Dr. Davorin Kracun.

"We already exhausted the big subjects last year," Kracun emphasized. "These were determining the budget deficit and the public debt as a preface to rehabilitating the banks and the economy, privatization, and reducing inflation to moderate growth rates. We now need a program that will maintain those trends and that will create conditions for a gradual economic revival." In Kracun's opinion, this year will be critical for the long-term success of the key economic reforms. It is still necessary to create conditions for their implementation on the microeconomic level.

The budget policy will promote stabilization, and will support the three priority tasks: rehabilitation of the banks, the restructuring of enterprises, and an active employment policy and assistance to the unemployed. This year's budget is restrictive, and the government coordinated and adopted it more rigidly than ever before. In the tax area, it is necessary to mention the new instruments planned and the reorganization of the tax service, the preparations for a value added tax, and the changes regarding the income tax and direct taxation. Wage policy will be restrictive (the government acknowledges its weakness in regulating this area in the past, and that is also the reason for the unpopular wage freeze). Monetary policy will remain under the jurisdiction of the Bank of Slovenia, and the government will support its measures to curb the growth of prices further. In the area of finance, attention will be devoted to improving financial discipline, regulating the financial market, and reducing interest rates. The social package provides for several measures, and the government is allocating additional funds for them. In foreign economic relations, the emphasis is on encouraging exports. Through the Slovene Export Company, the government will subsidize interest for financing exports of equipment and carrying out capital projects abroad, and imports will continue to be liberal. Negotiations for admission to the most important international associations await us. This year about 400 enterprises are to be privatized, and the rest will be by May 1994; the Development Fund will also play a role in as many as possible.

Italian Minority Wants United Istria

93BA0824A Ljubljana SLOVENEC in Slovene 20 Mar 93 p 3

[Article by Vinko Zalar: "United Italian Istria—A Goal Achievable by Peaceful Means or by Weapons?"]

[Text] The position of the Italian nationality has deteriorated in the last two years after the collapse of Yugoslavia and the emergence of Slovenia and Croatia, and the new border in Istria has affected the minority's unity. This was the basic message from minority representatives at this year's reception by President Kucan, which has already become a customary post-New Year's one.

The reception, which was on 4 March, was not mentioned by a single one of the Slovene dailies, unless we count the minority media LA VOCE, which is published in Rijeka, and IL PICCOLO, with an editorial office in Koper for Primorska, Istria, and Kvarner. Both Italian-language media (they are sold and distributed together) primarily expressed surprise and disappointment that Giuseppe Rota, president of the Union of Italians' assembly, was not invited to the reception as well. That is why Maurizio Tremul, chairman of the union's executive board, did not participate in the reception either. (In any case, the union did not want to register in Slovenia, and it is only registered in Croatia.) Daniela Paliaga-Jankovic, the head of the delegation and president of the Italian nationality's coastal self-managing community, presented President Kucan with Tremul's letter with an explanation of his absence and a proposal that the president also receive a delegation from the Union. The president accepted the proposal. IL PICCOLO also devoted a special commentary to this event from its Koper contributor, Miro Kocjan, who described Kucan's failure to receive G. Rota as a "serious mistake" that could also be interpreted as opposition to regionalization and that "will certainly be quickly avenged."

Talks in Brussels

As IL PICCOLO reported, at the beginning of February Maurizio Tremul, chairman of the Union of Italians' executive board, visited the Italian Republic's representation at the EC in Brussels and the EC's directorate general for foreign affairs. He spoke with those responsible for relations with Slovenia and Croatia, France Soubeyran and Ivan Karic, about the minority's position and participation in future EC projects in Istria, Slovenia, and Croatia.

In response to our question about whether the Croatian Foreign Ministry or other Croatian authorities responsible for foreign policy were informed about Mr. Tremul's visit to Brussels and participated in it, the Foreign Ministry's spokeswomen, Mrs. Moric, confirmed that they had learned about Mr. Tremul's talks in Brussels from the IL PICCOLO report. We also received the same answer from the Slovene Foreign Ministry.

Italy Should Return to Istria

Here is the conclusion of an interview between a journalist from Koper television's Italian program and Salvino del Colle, a refined gentleman from the village of Serbani near Novigrad, who is disappointed by the economic situation and above all dissatisfied with the state borders that divide Istria:

"What kind of Istria would you like?"

"The kind that was united under one flag."

"Which one?"

"Undoubtedly the Italian one. There is no doubt about it. The one that it had before—the Italian one. We are Italians, and other languages that are not ours are penetrating here. That is why the only and best solution is for Italy to return to Istria. Clear?"

Talks in Belgrade, Aid From the United States

No one, however, is dreaming about coming back to Istria by means of cannons, not even Roberto Menia, secretary of the Missini [MSI—Italian Social Movement]—at least not for now. That son of exiles was in Belgrade two years ago with Fini, and they talked about nothing other than the future of Istria. The Serbs took this very seriously. They said, "Why don't you look for a rebellious general, some sort of new D'Annunzio, and take back the coasts that historically belong to you? You will come from the north and we from the south, and we will meet in Zadar."

Two years have passed since then, but no seers or rebellious generals are in sight yet. To be sure, there was some sort of colonel who feels out the terrain, according to Menia. The "D'Annunzio" Fini also came into Slovene waters and lowered into them the messages of the "tricolors": "We will return!" The sea current, however, carried the messages in the bottles in the wrong direction, toward Trieste.

It seems that even the Missini understood that the Italian population on the other side of the border did not want "liberation," since the dispute between the Istrians and the nationalists from Zagreb is only being aggravated. When a group of emigrant exiles telephoned Menia from New York to say that they would make people and weapons available to him, he answered the Brooklyn storm troops as follows: "We are counting on you, but the right moment has not yet come." But... "If a conflict begins in Istria between the Italian community and Zagreb, we will not keep our hands folded."

The representatives of the exiles, to be sure, are laughing at the idea of a new "D'Annunzio campaign," but in spite of this they are putting increasingly sharper pressure on Italian diplomacy. It is as if the cry of Vittorio Emmanuel Orlando against Carlo Sforza in the spring of 1950, when the Yugoslavs were also engaged in ethnic cleansing in Zone B, 50 km from the coast toward Trieste, is resounding in their voices: "History is not made by the bleating of sheep, but by the roaring of lions." Paolo Sardos Albertini is now roaring that the Farnesina at least has to achieve Istria's becoming an autonomous region.

Government Sends Proposed Budget to Parliament

93BA0851A Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 26 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed article: "There Is No Longer a Way Back!"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 25 Mar—For the deputies in the State Assembly, the government has attached to the draft law on the budget for this year—for the first time in this way—a budget memorandum, as a basis for the most thorough and substantive budget discussion possible. It is intended to provide the deputies with comprehensive information on public spending and the orientations of government policy during the current year, as Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek emphasized, among other things, in the preface to the budget discussion. By doing this, the government wanted "to place the bare budget figures intelligibly and clearly in the broader context of the economic situation, goals, and policy."

Drnovsek first of all pointed out the accumulated negative consequences in connection with the transition to a new economic and political system, independence, the war in our immediate neighborhood, and the general political and economic instability in the world. The anticipated positive results that were supposed to have been yielded by replacing the economic system do not yet exist, which is understandable, in Drnovsek's opinion. It is not possible to replace an economic system overnight, nor is it possible to establish all the institutions of a market economy and get them to be effective overnight. Drnovsek, however, believes that in the last two years we have achieved what was objectively possible; we have reduced inflation, the surpluses in foreign trade are evident, and we have established a relatively solid currency.

The government describes the main difficulty as the decline in economic activity, which has decreased by 15 percent in the last two years, while at the same time unemployment has grown. The economic crisis in the real sector has spread to the financial system. Enterprises and banks have ended up with losses, and the lack of financial discipline has increased, along with the number of enterprises with blocked transfer accounts and those that are ripe for bankruptcy.

For new economic growth, according to Drnovsek, it is necessary to start the privatization process this year. It seems that we decided on privatization more theoretically, because of the trends in the world, but in reality we are not yet aware of what it means and we still do not accept all the consequences of this process. That is why there are considerable difficulties in connection with it, and an additional one is that there has been a delay in specifying the rules of the game, and there are suspicions of improper privatizations. According to the government, however, there is no way back. Those who are exacerbating social conflicts and threatening strikes and blockades also have to be aware of this. The government is aware that it has to respect the rules of social justice, but the material possibilities for this are limited, as also shown by the draft of this year's budget. The government, however, cannot retreat from the outlined economic and social policy, since the situation would then deteriorate further. It does not intend to resolve the difficulties in the street, however, but rather institutionally and by mutual coordination among social partners.

Drnovsek also spoke about income policy. The budget is based on the assumption that wages and pensions will change as dictated by the interventionary law. The government is aware of the shortcomings of the administrative regulation of wages, and that is why it is preparing two possibilities for replacing it: substituting tax instruments, or an agreement on a social balance, which would also include an agreement on an economically bearable increase in wages during the transitional period.

Inflation is to increase by up to 3 and at most 4 percent per month, and with a well-considered price policy the government is to avoid price discrepancies and causing new inflationary expectations and pressures.

As calculations indicate, this year we have to expect an even smaller decline in economic activity and employment. Through the economic policy measures and transfers planned in the budget, an attempt will be made to reduce the decline as much as possible or halt it during the year. Slovenia will still be very dependent upon international economic trends and on its exports, but in many cases in encouraging exports, the instruments of economic policy, especially monetary policy, are very limited. Investments in the financial rehabilitation of banks and enterprises should lower costs and the burden on exporters, but the latter are to achieve improved competitiveness primarily through internal restructuring and through streamlining operations. The government will try to ensure the effective operation of the Development Fund and the Bank Rehabilitation Agency. It does not intend to finance chronic losers, but will help enterprises that could operate successfully in the future if they were rid of their past burdens.

And finally, there was more about the budget: According to Drnovsek, it is the most important annual document of every government and state. This year, in addition to the budget, the government is also showing the revenues and expenditures of pension-disability and health insurance, and the municipalities' budgets. The budget has been prepared in accordance with the internationally accepted standards of public financial statistics; it is clear and internationally comparable. For the first time, it also shows the amount and structure of the state's public debt. The government is introducing new medium-term budget planning in the form of public finance projections until 1995, in which the fundamental guideline is reducing the overall fiscal burden. The cost of solving the problems that the government is addressing with the proposed budget is high, and fiscal policy's room to maneuver is very narrow, the prime minister emphasized. In preparing the budget, the government tried to find a balance among all the limitations. The planned budget deficit is at the limit of what can be covered by issuing securities and by loans. The structure of the budgetary expenditures is due to the priorities: rehabilitating the banks, transforming enterprises, and an active employment policy and ensuring social security.

How To Finance the Planned Budget Deficit

Dr. France Arhar, governor of the Bank of Slovenia, emphasized among other things: "The Bank of Slovenia, through its policy—which will be assessed by parliament—together with the government and others, will strive for a stable tolar, which should bring progress and confidence in the Slovene economy and banking system." Monetary policy during 1993 should also continue to serve the growth of the Slovene economy and the reduction of unemployment, but not on an inflationary basis. According to him, inflation obscures values; in inflationary conditions, which do not encourage investors, one cannot expect new investments either. The economy is to be given fresh money equivalent to its real output. He talked to the deputies about the relationship between the budget and monetary policy, and he recommended that they consider how the planned budget deficit should be financed. There are three methods for this, which all have possible awkward consequences. The worst would be to cover it by printing money, since that would lead directly to inflation. If the state borrowed domestically, that would cause higher interest rates. By the way, because of the central bank's intervention in the so-called evening market, they have declined from R plus 30 percent to R plus 11 percent. Covering the budget deficit by borrowing abroad would have milder consequences than borrowing at home. It is accompanied by two unknown factors, however: the extent to which foreign countries would even

be willing to finance us, and what the monetary consequences would be like when the central bank changed the foreign loan into tolars.

The governor also pointed out that in the event that the existing foreign exchange reserves (which total $1.2 billion) were used for new investments, we would again be faced with the problem of how to solve the problems of old foreign exchange savings. He emphasized that the amount of primary money was the instrument through which the central bank formed monetary policy. He also warned that it was harmful to announce annual inflation in advance, since that encouraged inflationary expectations. In connection with the stability of the tolar, he also pointed out that we were not envisioning shock therapy, since it had already been shown to be destructive in Yugoslav conditions. In this regard a social pact is also necessary. He also pointed out that some funds had reserves, and the public sector also had money abroad, and all of that should be used just as in other states.

Semiautonomous Mandatory Health Insurance

Franc Kosir, acting director of the Slovene Institute for Health Insurance, upon presenting the experiences from one year of the emerging insurance system for health protection, primarily pointed out the dilemmas in its further development, saying that some circles planning the state's economic and development policy were thinking again about nationalizing the health insurance system and financing health protection from the integrated budget. He emphasized that mandatory health insurance was only semiautonomous, since the State Assembly specified by law all the basic elements of insurance (the rights of the insured person, those required to pay contributions, the contribution rate, and the permissible use), and the scope of the Institute's autonomy was thus only in a possible agreement with the performers of health services regarding the method of distributing the funds. In the world, the autonomy of mandatory health insurance is supported as an integral part of trends toward decentralization, democratization, and more active participation by people and citizens in solving health problems. He also emphasized that the decline in the social product required a careful and well-considered possible intervention in the rights from mandatory health insurance. In that case, additional voluntary insurance would be expanded by the rights dropped from the mandatory insurance, and above all, people should be motivated through educational programs to take care of their own health and cooperate in solving health problems. In short, the Institute will support the trends toward a moderate change in the health insurance system in such a way as to have a gradual decrease in this area in the proportion of public finances (by one-fourth) at the expense of private funds.

Pension System Deserves a Positive Assessment

Janez Prijatelj, general director of the Pension Institute, emphasized in presenting the basic data and characteristics of pension and disability insurance that the systemic law adopted last April not only preserved the level of rights from the previous regulations, but also even specified some broader rights, although even during the preparation of the law there was emphasis on the increasingly greater discrepancy among rights, the number of beneficiaries, and economic capabilities.

The systemic law thus increased several taxes, introduced the convenient possibility of supplementing the period for retirement by the time of studies and military service, and expanded the possibilities of supplementing it for technological surpluses, and finally, specified for retirees a more favorable way of coordinating pensions with the growth of wages. Furthermore, with the health legislation pension insurance acquired a new burden—the payment of contributions for the mandatory health care of retirees. It also had to take over ensuring the rights of military retirees and retirees who had earned their pensions on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The difficulties in this area are thus not accidental and unexpected, since they are a consequence of deliberate decisions, which as a result require higher contribution rates.

Because of legal changes, unfavorable demographic trends, and exacerbated economic conditions, the number of retirees increased extremely quickly. In 1982 there were not even 280,000 retirees in Slovenia, and in 1992 there were already more than 443,000 of them. The record increase was in 1991, when the number of retirees because of age increased by 15.3 percent. On the other hand, since 1988 there has been a decline in the number of people employed, i.e., those who pay contributions. Between 1982 and 1992 the ratio between insured people and retirees has declined from 1:3.2 to 1:1.7, also because retirement has become an important factor in resolving technological surpluses and growing unemployment. All of this had a significant influence upon the necessary funds for pension and disability insurance and the growth of its share in the gross national product from 6.99 to 14.25 percent in 1992.

In conclusion, Prijatelj said that in a social sense the current pension system deserved a positive assessment, since so far it had ensured appropriate social security for retirees. The economic reservations about this assessment should therefore be well studied from several national economic aspects, and above all one should avoid rapid changes on the basis of sweeping assessments saying that the system is too expensive, it is necessary to reduce rights and introduce capital coverage, etc.

New Communist Party on Political Scene

93BA0860A Ljubljana DNEVNIK in Slovene 29 Mar 93 p 4

[Interview with Robert Brezovsek by Joze Poglajen: "Privatization Is Only One Form of Ownership Transformation"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 29 Mar—The appearance of a communist party in Slovenia, specifically in "Red" Moste, which obviously is not like that any longer, judging by the election results, has aroused considerable attention from the political public. One of the most frequent comments is that finally the left has also acquired its own radicals. We talked with the president of the Party of Communists of Slovenia-Movement for Europe, Robert Brezovsek, about what kind of party it actually is and what its goals and methods are.

[Poglajen] When did you establish the party?

[Brezovsek] This year. The party was registered on 23 February and has its own transfer account. In order to achieve our first goal, the public presentation of the party, we hired a professional agency, so we are using European standards in that area as well. We expect that we will be allowed equal access to the public media in the way that other parties also have it, no more and no less.

[Poglajen] Aren't you afraid that by doing this you have taken upon yourself the negative legacy of the "45 years"?

[Brezovsek] Among other things, our intention is also to reveal the historical trickery being used by the right wing; specifically, it considers declaring the previous system to be the final form of socialist or even communist relations is an excuse for everything whose goals sound like a change in the system. That demonization has reached a high level in Slovene society, so that people are simply afraid to say that they support changing the system. I admit that this represents a big obstacle for our party. The truth is different. In the implementation of the previous system, a refeudalization occurred in certain areas. Part of the leading party managed social property as if it was its private property, which, among other things, removed people's incentive to work. The system started to produce less and less and spend more and more. It was only a question of time when confusion would occur in the system, and in the end its collapse also came. Euthanasia was inevitable. The basic difference between us and the communists from the previous system, however, is that we want to achieve our goals in an equal competition with other parties.

[Poglajen] Dr. Ciril Ribicic mentioned the existence of your party in his polemics with the Social Democrats, who demanded that the United List be separated into communists and others if it wanted to merge with them.

[Brezovsek] That kind of behavior by the SDSS [Social Democratic Party of Slovenia] has to be understood as an attempt to break up the left. That is not its first such move. Let us recall the attempt to break up the trade unions in the recent past. That led it to the right side of the political scene, and the voters understood this very well. It was condemned to the role of a marginal political party. The Party of Social Democratic Reform should also be given honest recognition for its understanding of social relations, which led that party to decide that it would calmly and voluntarily allow changing the previous system. Underestimating others only indicates one's own smallness. The Communists of Slovenia are posing a public question to the Social Democrats: Do they really think that the Reformers are not competent enough and that they have not reached similar conclusions or the same ones as we have, even though they chose a different path to implement them?

[Poglajen] And what are the focuses of your program?

[Brezovsek] A market system and workers' self-management are the central, and of course the most difficult, elements of our program. We know that a market is a historical necessity. Our party supports the moderate and lenient implementation of the socioeconomic laws of development within the existing system of multiparty democracy, with the final goal of changing the system itself. We want to change it into a system of primarily socialized capital with a basic production relationship of unified management. In view of the level of development of productive forces, self-management does not seem to us to be a substantively appropriate term.

[Poglajen] Does that mean that you oppose privatization?

[Brezovsek] Privatization is only one of the possible forms of ownership transformation, and it is by no means the sole and only possible one. We recognize the equality of all forms of property. The law on privatization should allow economic entities personal ownership of a share of the socialized capital, and moreover a majority share. That device would meant that property would acquire a real holder, additional capitalization, and, which is also important, there would be more motivation. We have already prepared a more detailed program for the party, and it is now being reviewed. In fact, we intend to issue it in the form of a small book, but we lack the money for that.

[Poglajen] In contrast to others, you often use Marxist vocabulary.

[Brezovsek] Throughout all of Europe and the whole world, progressive left-wing parties use so-called living Marxism. It is still alive and it should be used, since Marx's basic principle was the battle for progress.

[Poglajen] In the beginning you said that you want to compete with the other parties, but you obviously do not have very good opinions of them.

[Brezovsek] The SDSS and also the Socialists are no longer part of the left wing. Thinking one thing, saying another,

and doing something else is an inappropriate method, to put it mildly. Podobnik's party, and especially its leadership, also deserve a similar assessment. The farmers, who are otherwise an extremely important part of every society, and especially Slovene society, did not choose the right way to achieve their genuine farmers' interests with them. The Christian Democrats are an opponent worthy of respect, who have not deviated from their 2,000-year-old tradition at all. In the general crowd of the primitive right wing, the SDK [Slovene Christian Democrats] is a pleasant exception, and it would be dishonest of our part to keep silent the fact that it is an incomparably more serious and more difficult opponent than the entire Slovene right wing together. And just a short comment on the Slovene National Party and Jelincic: Where the nation becomes a profession, there is no longer either a profession or a nation.

[Poglajen] You have almost four years of time before the next elections. How do you intend to use it?

[Brezovsek] We are counting on almost a fifth of the voters, who did not come to the polls in the last elections. With them, we would strengthen the left side of the Slovene political scene. We do not want to steal members and personnel from the other parties, as the SDSS does. We do not want to act according to the well-known Slovene proverb: Since I do not have a cow and I cannot buy one, let my neighbor's die.

[Poglajen] What about the local elections?

[Brezovsek] We would like to participate in the local elections, but not independently yet.

Federal

Churkin Meets Bartholomew, Comments on Mission

LD1404101893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0934 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Apr (TANJUG)—Vitaliy Churkin and Reginald Bartholomew, special envoys to the negotiations on Bosnia from Russia and the United States, met today in the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade. Churkin arrived in Belgrade last night and Bartholomew this morning. Both men are on a mission to find a solution to the Bosnian conflict.

The Churkin-Bartholomew meeting was held behind strictly closed doors. Immediately after today's meeting with Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic, the Russian envoy said that his talks with his U.S. colleague were of a strictly private nature. As has been unofficially learned, Churkin will brief Bartholomew on his talks so far—with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Serb republic president Radovan Karadzic last night, and Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic this morning.

In a brief statement following the talks with President Cosic, Churkin indicated that he would meet again with Milosevic and Karadzic today. Churkin described the talks with the Yugoslav president as "interesting and meaningful". He said that they exchanged views on "certain specific details concerning the negotiating process on Bosnia."

At a personal request of the Russian diplomat, the talks with the Yugoslav president were held in private. Details of the talks have not been released, but it is certain that attention was focused on the Bosnian crisis. Details of the talks, as well as "certain specific details concerning the negotiating process," which Churkin mentioned in his brief statement, can only be guessed at.

Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic will receive the other envoy, Reginald Bartholomew, around noon [1000 GMT] in the Palace of the Federation.

Bulatovic Denounces UN No-Fly Enforcement

LD1304151693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1449 GMT 13 Apr 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, April 13 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Defence Minister Pavle Bulatovic told TANJUG on Tuesday the operation to enforce a no-fly zone over the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina "cannot be justified by any move by either the F.R. Yugoslavia or the Republic of Serbia."

"The F.R. Yugoslavia, as a sovereign country, follows and examines the developments in its immediate surrounding, heeding its integrity, sovereignty and security," said Bulatovic.

"We state with regret and concern that the Security Council has opted for such a risky step precisely at the time that a ceasefire seems to be setting in gradually in Bosnia-Herzegovina," the Yugoslav defence minister added.

He recalled a report by the U.N. secretary-general, saying that since the adoption of the U.N. resolution imposing a no-fly zone over Bosnia in October last year, no combat flights by the Serb Republic's aircraft were registered over Bosnia and no Yugoslav planes violated the no-fly zone. However, Bulatovic said, military planes of the Republic of Croatia did so on several occasions which was confirmed also in UNPROFOR reports.

"Operation 'Deny Flight' is a high risk operation which might be turned into an armed conflict by any deliberate or undeliberate incident, and even spread outside Bosnia-Herzegovina. I hope the force engaged in the operation will strictly abide by the mandate given by the Security Council and will not overstep its authority," said Bulatovic.

He pointed out Yugoslavia's efforts and readiness, which it has expressed several times, to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"I am confident that the ethnic and religious war cannot be stopped by threats, pressures, the use of force or imposed solutions to any of the sides in the conflict, but only through an agreement and respect for the interests and rights of all three peoples. Yugoslavia will continue to support and give its maximum contribution to such options," the Yugoslav defence minister set out.

Price Change Registration Made Compulsory

LD1204220193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1817 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Apr (TANJUG)—Miroslav Ivanisevic, federal minister of trade, told journalists at a news conference in the Palace of the Federation this evening, while the federal government meeting was still going on, that the government has issued an instruction stating that it is compulsory to register price changes with effect from midnight tonight.

Producers will be able to apply the price registered with the Federal Ministry of Trade eight days after the registration.

Tourist Agency Successful Despite Sanctions

93BA0791A Belgrade EKONOMSKA POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 8 Mar 93 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Branko Krasojevic, director of Jolly Tours, by J. O.; place and date not given: "Island of Survival"]

[Text] Jolly Tours was founded in June 1990, and the intention in founding this private tourist agency even

then was that the main tourist offering would be Cyprus. This was during the time before sanctions and then the favorable attitude of Cyprus as one of the few countries that did not require visas for Yugoslavs, and during a period of a sort of flood of small private tour operators. These agencies were recruited from the personnel of already well-shaken state firms, tourist, airline, or foreign trade enterprises. At any rate, that was also the case with Jolly Tours, whose director (our interlocutor Branko Krasojevic) and other expert personnel mostly came from Putnik. Both because of this factor of knowledge, obviously combined with the factor of intuition, and because of all the unfortunate and "fortunate" circumstances that subsequently occurred, Jolly Tours, at the time of its appearance, ranked 32d on the list of Yugoslav tour operators, but today it is the third one in the smaller Yugoslav market.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] What does this change in position in the business ranking really mean? By hook or by crook, you nevertheless survived in a sort of monopolistic situation?

[Krasojevic] Really, that change does not mean much; it is only flattering in the sense that we survived in what were nevertheless extremely unfavorably business conditions. I will certainly not deny that we did business in a sort of monopolistic situation, but we did not seek it, just as we did not seek either the sanctions or the closing of the market. That happened in spite of us, but in those conditions we succeeded in surviving. Many people were not able to manage it.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] How was it that even then you selected Crete [as published] as your chosen and primary offering?

[Krasojevic] For someone who knows how to do this job, and I feel that we who have done it for years do know how, it was by no means an unusual solution. Crete is above all a very good choice for tourism, and that is not our invention—it is indicated by the fact that last year, according to CITY O, its tourist association's newspaper, this country achieved record tourism in terms of income and the number of guests. That is mostly not due to Yugoslavs, but it is due not only to the tourist policy but also the overall policy that this country conducts. This is because Crete, in addition to being a tourist attraction, is also a business attraction. It is very tempting for various types of business, the establishment of off-shore companies, banking transactions, trade in real estate, etc. Crete has very good transportation links, and is considered exceptional for transit, especially for the Middle East, and it has very good telecommunications connections. The English have still remained loyal to it, since it is their former colony, but the Germans, Swedes, and Yugoslavs are too. We have traditionally good relations with Crete, and a lot of the businessmen or hotel managers there studied in our country. We also have traditionally good diplomatic relations with them. One can thus vacation well and do business well on Crete. A lot of our clients are businessmen, but also families. The structure of the clientele is extremely interesting to us, because we want to offer a complete tourist package; we are not just transporters. I really do not see anything wrong with that structure of our offer or visits—on the contrary. And I do not see why we as professionals would not know it in our work.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] This destination has supported you and brought good earnings?

[Krasojevic] Yes, we have had good earnings; since starting this line, we have carried 3,500 passengers and made 33 round trips between Belgrade and Larnaca.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] What does that turnover mean for one tour operator?

[Krasojevic] It is a good turnover, especially under the conditions of the sanctions. If not for them, it would certainly be better.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] In addition to Crete, have there also been some other offers?

[Krasojevic] Yes, we also did well with Corfu. Then we offered the Maldives (in the Indian Ocean), and some foreign city tours: London, Paris, Athens, and some domestic ones, but last year we only sold 500 domestic arrangements. In fact, Jolly Tours intends to remain loyal to Crete, but it is primarily interested in foreign arrangements because of the more favorable margin for middlemen, and its offers will be primarily oriented toward the area of the Mediterranean. These are our long-term tourist ambitions. In the spring we will supplement our offer with Ibiza, Mallorca, Sicily, Corsica, Mykonos, and Rhodos.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] What is the price for one of your Crete packages?

[Krasojevic] It depends a great deal on the quality of the package. For seven days it is between $500 and $1,000, plus a dinar portion for bus transportation in Yugoslavia. For the Maldives, it is $1,190, and entails a complete seven-day package.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] These prices are negligible for some people, but too high for others, but obviously your "package" has had its customers.

[Krasojevic] Of course. The problem for us, however, is that the price is in foreign exchange, and then the fact that we have not been able to finance the packages. We have thus limited our clientele. We have done business the only way that we could, however, in unstable monetary conditions and with our advance payments. We set a foreign exchange price. We committed a violation, which is being overlooked, and we are committing another one in paying our Bulgarian air carrier. That is also being tolerated. The price of this domestic situation of ours, and especially of the sanctions, is too high. For example, from the beginning of the crisis until today we have paid Balkan, i.e., the neighboring airline, $700,000, which could have been taken by one of our airlines—in

normal conditions, of course—not to mention the other tour operators who simply have not even worked.

Let me go back to the price and our conditions, however. What I know for now is that after Jolly Tours has found itself by changing owners, in the company of a savings bank or bank, we will try to provide financial support for our tourist offerings. In that way we would both finance the clientele and ensure the purchase of foreign package tours. All other attempts so far have not yielded any results. Bankers, as I say, are hard-hearted people, and all my conversations with them about providing any sort of loans have ended with the calculation showing that we would have to pay them our entire profit just for the interest. As far as official policy is concerned, for two years it has encouraged our hopes that we could also count on loans from the primary issuance. When we asked for them, however, we were mostly refused with the explanation that either we had not brought in as many tourists as we had taken out, or else we had not provided food for domestic hotel managers?!....

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] It seems that there is no end to the deterioration in the current conditions.

[Krasojevic] Yes, I think that the key thing for our business is the chaotic situation in the financial-monetary sphere, not to mention the sanctions, and then—well, the tax policy has not been adjusted to the changed conditions, which is illogical. I think that it is too severe.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] What is your relationship with the other partners in the arrangement like? For example, with the carriers?

[Krasojevic] Our relationship is good, but as soon as you do not have much choice, the other side strengthens its negotiating position. They set the conditions, instead of my being able to choose the most favorable offers.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] So it is one "monopolist" against another; that is a negotiating situation, and not a competitive one. You also mentioned, however, other foreign destinations besides Crete, and then Crete is also handled through Sofia. How are the operational obstacles under the conditions of isolation being resolved?

[Krasojevic] There are problems. They are smallest on the Bulgarian side. Their border services, however, are constantly asking us for some additional documentation, which in some cases has delayed and complicated our transit. Since an agreement has been reached now, I hope that buses with the sign JUTA [Yugoslav Tourist Agency] will be allowed across the border without waiting, and that we will probably overcome that problem. As far as the other destinations are concerned, I sent letters to all the ambassadors with a request for relaxation of the criteria for issuing visas to the individuals on the lists for our tourist packages. They requested, however, that we send them some sort of guarantees. Naturally, we cannot guarantee that some individual on our list will not misuse our tourist package. The solutions thus depend on the embassy, the country, and the client. The fact is, however, that such restrictions are becoming more severe. Thus, for example, a British visa now has to be obtained in one of the neighboring countries. We go to Paris once a month, and that is in small groups of 15-20 people. But Crete fills a Tupolev with 50-76 passengers, and it is done every Monday. After all, there is already an entire small colony of 10,000 Yugoslavs on Crete.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] Although your ambitions, in addition to remaining loyal to Crete, are also to remain faithful to foreign tourism, because of the "solid margin," under the conditions of the sanctions won't you be unable to have much leeway in that area?

[Krasojevic] We think that it will work, and we are also thinking about the "domestic field." In that regard we are thinking about health tourism. For all the injured and those who have been frustrated in any way, we would provide, with medical consultation, offers of various bathing and climatic health resorts.

[EKONOMSKA POLITIKA] Do you believe that the injured for the most part do not have any money?

[Krasojevic] We considered that. Sometimes they do. But couldn't we end this conversation with some optimism? We all need it. I and my colleagues in tourism jointly arrived at this prediction: When the sanctions are lifted, tourism will experience a boom! Especially since people will free up the funds that they are now saving for basic survival, and they will want to experience something different from what they have been experiencing for the past year and a half, immediately on some trip. Whoever survives to operate under these conditions will also win later on.

West's Unidimensional Analysis of Crisis

93BA0836C Belgrade VREME in Serbo-Croatian 15 Mar 93 p 28

[Article by Dusan Reljic: "Serbia Today: The Strength of the Deputies"]

[Text] Milosevic's plan to bring all Serbs together in one state has failed. Instead, the parent country is on its deathbed, and it is being torn apart by material and spiritual poverty, violence, and corruption. Intensifying the isolation would put the state to death. The regime, to survive, must preserve it—otherwise it would have no one to govern. That is why Vladislav Jovanovic, foreign minister of the FRY, Milosevic's hope in foreign policy, is declaring that Belgrade "supports the Vance and Owen plan as the basis for peace" and after the necessary precondition is met, which is peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he is announcing a "strong action for reassessment of the tenability of the sanctions under the altered circumstances."

False Witnesses

Jovanovic, and for that matter Milosevic, are mentioning less and less frequently the "breakthrough of the truth" as an objective of foreign policy. Nothing came of seeking support in the "natural Orthodox allies" in Moscow and Athens. Greece, as it falls into an increasingly avid nationalism in its phobia toward Skoplje, has lost international credibility. Russia, whoever has governed it, as history has shown, will never confuse its national interests, which are above all realizable through cooperation with the West, with devotion to small fry in the Balkans.

The droves of false witnesses who have paraded through Belgrade, mainly at the expense of the citizens of Serbia, have not convinced anyone that "truth is breaking through to the world." Completely anonymous people have been brought to have their pictures taken with the chief of state as evidence that "we have allies." As in the case of the group of deputies from the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, who visited Milosevic on 8 March, they have often been so unknown that even those writing press releases in the president's office did not take pains to mention their names.

In an interview with PRAVDA published on 20 February, Milosevic spun a fantastic tale of a "German-Catholic alliance," in whose interest it is to "break up not only our country, but yours as well." Precisely at that moment, Chancellor Helmut Kohl was once again girding himself to organize an increase in economic and financial aid of the leading Western countries to Russia.

Most of the international community perceives the Serbs today as a pestilence against which they need to defend themselves. It is a long time now since a distinction was made between the regime and the subjects. The identification of today's Serbia with Nazi Germany and its president with the German leader of that time does not exist only in the posters of hystericized humanitarian organizations: In the meantime, it has unfortunately become deeply ingrown in the general consciousness of the West.

Thus, William Pfaff, leading columnist of the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, warns with many recollections of Munich in 1938 and Chamberlain's policy that there is a "threat to the West" if "toleration and rewarding (Serbian) aggression should draw a major part of southeastern Europe into disorder and war, which could divide the democratic states and have a potentially very dangerous influence on conditions within the former Soviet Union."

Morality and Democracy

This analysis is pathetic in its one-dimensionality. Reducing the causes of the Yugoslav war to the "aggression" of one of the Yugoslav republics on the others is either the product of ignorance or of intellectual dishonesty. Such an analysis is just as ideologized in its outcome as one of the typical assessments of Vladislav Jovanovic to the effect that "moral values and democracy" do not play a role in the West's attitude toward Belgrade. However, this analysis is characteristic of the unwillingness of the West's political mind to face the source of the Yugoslav agony. And that source is made up of the fascist consequences of applying the liberal concept of the right of a people to self-determination in a multinational postcommunist community. Model law-governed states were not created in disintegrating Yugoslavia, but atavistic, authoritarian, and violent regimes. The first victims of their aggression were their own citizens; later, they had to collide with one another.

A more reasonable understanding of the Yugoslav situation is hindered to the greatest extent by the paranoid cries for help from regime ideologues in Belgrade, according to whom "Serbia is the victim of the New World Order." This kind of nationalistic autism of Belgrade's foreign policy creates the opportunity for the regimes in Zagreb and Sarajevo to be acquitted of blame for their part in the Yugoslav evil.

Milosevic also has another option. He signaled it when he visited the Air Force Command Center and its chief, Colonel General Bozidar Stevanovic. This is the officer who has been openly and persistently meddling in political decisions, from the attack with an unconcealed putschist threat against then Prime Minister Milan Panic before the election all the way to the recent verbal showdown with Ilija Djukic, former foreign minister of the FRY. He was accompanied by Zivota Panic, chief of the General Staff. An army which made Dragos Kalajic a member of the editorial council of its chief political journal obviously has its own particular vision of the future of its state in the world.

Serbia

Milosevic, Churkin Discuss Political Situation

LD1304220893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2125 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—This evening Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic received Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin. The talks, as the president's office disclosed to TANJUG, focused on the current political situation regarding the Yugoslav crisis.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic and Russian Ambassador to Belgrade Gennadiy Shikin took part in the talks, it was also disclosed.

Karadzic Starts Talks With Churkin

LD1304221493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2109 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—Talks between president of the Serb republic [in Bosnia-Herzegovina] Radovan Karadzic, and Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy at the talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, started in Belgrade this evening.

This is the fourth Karadzic-Churkin meeting in just over a month, and this is Churkin's third visit to Belgrade in as many weeks.

Vitaliy Churkin met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic immediately upon his arrival in Belgrade.

The minister of foreign affairs of the Serb republic, Aleksa Buha, and the Russian Ambassador to Belgrade, Gennadiy Shikin, are taking part in the Karadzic-Churkin talks.

Talks End Without Accord

LD1404020893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0019 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Belgrade, April 13 (TANJUG)—No concrete accord in the two-hour talks which ended late on Tuesday in Belgrade was reached between president of the Serbian republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina (R.S.) Radovan Karadzic and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Envoy for Bosnia Vitaliy Churkin.

However, the two sides set out there was good will and readiness to continue intensive contacts in an effort to find a lasting and definitive solution acceptable to all three sides.

Karadzic repeated that because territories were at stake only direct talks between the three sides could resolve the current deadlock.

Churkin said after the talks that the "discussion dwelled on other possibilities for finding a way out of this complex and very difficult situation and we keep working more and more intensively."

"We intend to intensify our work in the days to come and we continue to be hopeful for the better for a possible solution which would be satisfactory to all three sides," he said.

Asked whether there was a possibility for a meeting between himself, Karadzic and Bartholomew on Wednesday, Churkin answered that it was a coincidence that they have found themselves at the same time in the same place and that this did not signify it was a joint U.S.-Russian mission.

"Although we do continue almost daily contacts, I hope to get in touch with him in Belgrade," he said.

Asked whether a definite solution could be found within two weeks, Churkin said he could not place any specific time limitations. "It is our intention to try to find a solution as soon as possible and that is why we are working so hard," he commented.

Macedonia

Crvenkovski Government Survives Opposition Vote

LD1304121793 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1118 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Skopje, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—The government of Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski survived a no-confidence vote this morning in the Assembly of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Sixty-two of the total of 120 deputies voted in favor of the government.

The vote was demanded by the opposition Internal Macedonian Revolution Organization-Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity [VMRO-DPMNE] in connection with the government's policy concerning the recognition of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the United Nations, i.e., its name, and the difficult economic situation in the republic.

Kosovo

Rugova Receives U.S. Delegation

AU1304182093 Tirana ATA in English 1011 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tirana, April 13 (ATA)—The delegation of U.S. congressmen, members of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, made up of Eliot Ingle, Susan Molinar, Bill Packson, and Peter King, escorted by their collaborators arrived in Prishtina on April 11. Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the republic of Kosova, met with the U.S. delegation. They concentrated on the current political situation in Kosova and the opportunities to settle the crisis.

The U.S. congressmen met and talked with representatives of the Albanian political parties of Kosova. They also met with the representatives of the Serb minority in Kosova.

On April 12 the U.S. delegation visited some cities of Kosova and prisons as well.

Serbian Police Send Youngsters to Army

AU1304204093 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Citing reports from Prishtina, ATA states that the Serbian police have recently seized dozens of Albanian youngsters and sent them to the Serbian army. Besides this, the Serbian police are raiding and mistreating family members, threatening them if they reveal where their sons are.

The Serbian police have used arms while raiding Albanian families in Lipjane, Podujeve, and in several hundred centers in Kosovo. These raids mainly take place late at night or early in the morning.

People Urged To Ignore Leaflets

AU1304131693 Tirana ATA in English 1020 GMT 13 Apr 93

[ATA report: "Adem Demaci—We Should Not Run After Those Who Distribute Leaflets at Night—According to the Democratic League of Kosova Bulletin"]

[Text] Tirana, April 13 (ATA)—Adem Demaci, the man who has suffered more than anyone else in the Yugoslav prisons and editor-in-chief of ZERI, in a commentary on the leaflets distributed in Kosova recently, which appealed the Albanians in an uprising, writes among others: "Our people is not so immature as to run after those who distribute leaflets at night, while during the day see behind curtains what is happening. Moreover they cannot set on foot according to the instructions of some who have come from Switzerland, Germany, America, Sweden or Turkey. In general, we Albanians, in the present conditions do not have premises for a triumphant liberation uprising. But if the Serbian nationalists will impose war on us, aiming to eliminate or expel us from our territories, then we cannot but set up in a liberation uprising, which will certainly be successful because we shall have the active and unreserved support of the entire world.

"The possibility of a purging war by the Serbs against the Albanians in the kind of the war they are waging against the Bosnians now, is not only an hypothesis but a reality as well. If the Serbian militarists will manage to create, through force and against the will and the actions of all international community "The Great Serbia," by seizing the lands from the Croatians and the Bosnians, it is understandable that they will also not give up their objectives for the Serbization of Kosova too. In face of this Demaci underlines, all Albanians wherever they are in the world should be prepared," the commentary of Adem Demaci says at the end.

Albania Preparing for Possible Conflict in Kosovo

93BA0795B Ljubljana SLOVENEC in Slovene 19 Mar 93 p 5

[Article by STA: "Albania in Readiness"]

[Text] Tirana—Albania is preparing for a possible outbreak of conflicts in Kosovo. Thirty-five thousand soldiers are being trained for war, reservists have been prepared for mobilization, and civil defense preparations are under way in the border areas for a possible wave of refugees from neighboring Serbia, as the Austrian Press Agency [APA] reports. In the border area of Kukes, which lies 220 km northwest of the Albanian capital of Tirana, 1,500 soldiers have been deployed to protect the border. They are armed with cannons from 1939, mortars, antiair cannons from the 1950's and 1960's, and 10 old T-59 tanks. The soldiers lack radars, aircraft, and mobile artillery. The only professionals are the officers, and the others are only military conscripts.

The Albanians themselves think that on the Serbian side of the Morina border crossing, and all the way to Prizren, there are 15,000 Serbs armed to the teeth, including 7,000 regular soldiers, 3,000 policemen, and 5,000 members of paramilitary units and armed civilians, who are supported by the entire FRY army.

Kukes is also prepared for the possible reception of refugees. "In 24 hours, we can receive 15,000 people and house them in the interior of the country," a representative of that area said.

The situation is similar in the area of Shkoder, on the border with Montenegro, although not as dramatic, according to APA, which added that there were 2,200 active Albanian troops on the southern bank of the Shkoder lake, against 6,000 soldiers from the 11th Yugoslav Army from Podgorica.

Regarding the preparations for a possible conflict in Kosovo, a former Albanian mathematics professor said, "We want to prevent an armed war, but we will not permit ethnic cleansing by any means."